

## Claims: Migrant children molested in U.S.-funded foster care

Associated Press

After local Guatemalan officials burned down an environmental activist's home, he decided to leave his village behind and flee to the United States, hoping he'd be granted asylum and his little boy, whose heart was failing, would receive life-saving medical care.

But after crossing the border into Arizona in May of last year, Border Patrol agents tore the man's 7-year-old son from his arms and sent the father nearly 2,000 miles (3,220 kilometers) away to a detention center in Georgia. The boy, now 8, went into a U.S.-funded foster home for migrant children in New York. The foster care programs are aimed at providing migrant children with care while authorities work to connect them with parents, relatives or other sponsors.

Continued on Next Page



In this Thursday, June 21, 2018 file photo, police stand outside an office for the Cayuga Centers in the the Harlem neighborhood of New York.

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**Continued from Front**

But instead the boy told a counselor he was repeatedly sexually molested by other boys in the foster home.

A review of 38 legal claims obtained by The Associated Press — some of which have never been made public — shows taxpayers could be on the hook for more than \$200 million in damages from parents who said their children were harmed while in government custody.

The father and son are among dozens of families — separated at the border as part of the Trump administration's zero tolerance policy — who are now preparing to sue the federal government, including several who say their young children were sexually, physically or emotionally abused in federally funded foster care.

With more than 3,000 migrant children taken from their parents at the border in recent years, many lawsuits are expected, potentially totaling in the billions. Families who spoke to the AP and FRONTLINE did so on the condition of anonymity over fears about their families' safety.

"How is it possible that my son was suffering these things?" the father said. "My son is little and couldn't defend himself."

The families — some in the U.S., others already deported to Central America — are represented by grassroots immigration clinics and nonprofit groups, along with some of the country's most powerful law firms. They're making claims under the Federal Tort Claims Act as a precursor to filing lawsuits. The FTCA allows individuals who suffer harm as a direct result of federal employees to sue the government.

"It's the tip of the iceberg," said Erik Walsh, an attorney at Arnold & Porter, which has one of the world's leading pro bono programs.

The firm has so far filed 18 claims on behalf of nine families, totaling \$54 million, and Walsh says dozens more are likely coming.

The government has six months to settle FTCA claims from the time they're filed. After that, the claimants are free to file federal lawsuits.

The departments of Justice and Homeland Security — both named in claims — did not respond to requests



In this Aug. 7, 2019 image made from video, attorney Michelle Lapointe speaks with her client, a Guatemalan immigrant, in Santa Ana, Calif.

Associated Press

for comment.

In a statement, Health and Human Services — the agency responsible for the care of migrant children — said it does not respond to pending litigation and that it serves children in a compassionate and organized manner through its Office of Refugee Resettlement.

"The important work happening in each of the facilities and programs in the ORR network around the country — work ORR has done successfully since 2003 — takes an experienced team of competent, hardworking men and women dedicated to the welfare of the children," HHS spokesman Mark Weber said. "We treat the children in our care with dignity and respect."

Last year, the Office of Refugee Resettlement cared for nearly 50,000 children who crossed the border by themselves, as well as children who were separated from their families under the zero tolerance policy. The agency housed them in foster programs, residential shelters and detention camps around the country, sometimes making daily placements of as many as 500 new arrivals, from babies to teens.

The allegations of abuse and assaults in foster care raise fresh questions about the government's efforts to place younger children with families in lieu of larger shelters and packed detention facilities.

The legal claims, a recent federal court filing and Health and Human Services

documents released by Congress earlier this year allege that children have suffered serious emotional trauma after being physically harmed or fondled by other children while in foster care.

Six of the claims for damages involve children who were in foster care. And one recent court filing refers to a migrant child being abused in foster care. The records released by Congress show the Office of Refugee Resettlement referred at least seven foster care allegations of sexual abuse to the Justice Department in 2017 and 2018. Because some are anonymous to protect the children's privacy, it's unclear if some of the claims are duplicates.

Justice has not responded to repeated queries about those cases from members of Congress.

Three of the four incidents involving physical harm outlined in legal filings occurred at Cayuga Centers in New York, the largest foster care placement for migrant children, housing up to 900 babies and children at a time. The kids are supposed to be placed with Spanish-speaking families who are paid \$1,000 per month per child.

In a statement on Friday, Cayuga Centers said it takes the safety of children in its care seriously and reports allegations of abuse to the proper local, state and federal authorities, including the New York State Office of Children Services, the New York Police De-

partment and Office for Refugee Resettlement.

"Child protection is our number one priority. If a concern is raised about child safety in a foster home, it is investigated immediately. Our staff are all mandated reporters," the group said in the statement. "Children are removed from a foster home immediately when an allegation is raised and if necessary, a foster home would be suspended until cleared following a thorough investigation."

In one Cayuga home, a foster parent found a little girl being forced to touch another child's private parts and kiss her on the lips, according to a memo submitted as part of a federal lawsuit related to family separation.

The girl was 3 when immigration officials took her from her father in March, after they'd crossed the border in Texas. As a result of her trauma, the little girl began to regress in foster care, having difficulty eating, drinking and using the toilet, according to her attorney. The girl was sent back to Honduras on Wednesday, a month after her father was deported.

One Guatemalan mother whose 5-year-old daughter was placed in Cayuga last year says her little girl still wakes up crying from what she endured at the foster home.

"Now she's scared each time we go out or when she sees a police car or someone in uniform," said the mother, who has filed a \$6 million claim. □

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## Arrests precede major demonstrations in Portland, Oregon

By GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)** — Authorities arrested the leader of a right-wing group on the eve of a rally that's expected to draw people from around the U.S. to Portland, Oregon, on Saturday, prompting Patriot Prayer's Joey Gibson to urge his followers to "show up one hundred-fold" in response.

Self-described anti-fascists have vowed to confront the right-wing groups at the downtown rally and the arrests of Gibson and five other right-wing supporters appeared to be intended to send a signal from police to organizers to remain peaceful or stay away.

Gibson, who is not involved in this weekend's event but organized similar rallies in 2017 and 2018 that erupted in clashes, surrendered Friday on an arrest warrant for rioting. He was at a confrontation that broke out on May 1 outside a bar where members of the so-called "antifa" movement had gathered after a May Day demonstration.

In a video he livestreamed on Facebook, Gibson accused the police of playing politics by arresting him and other right-wing members but not the masked demonstrators who beat up conservative blogger Andy Ngo at a June 29 rally.

A video of that attack went viral and led the Proud Boys, who have been designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, to organize Saturday's event.

"What I'm saying to every-

body who's listening to this (is) they're trying to shut you guys up. They want you to not show up in Portland, they want to put fear in your hearts. When a government pushes back like that, we don't bend the knee," he said, as he walked to the jail.

"We show up ten-fold, one hundred-fold," he said. "If you believe in freedom and you're against this political charging that they're doing, show up tomorrow but be peaceful. Force them to arrest you for being peaceful."

A Portland Police spokeswoman declined to comment about specific arrests but said generally police continue to investigate several incidents from clashes on May 1 and June 29 and are politically neutral. Members of antifa often cover their faces with masks, making it harder to identify them.

"We receive criticism no matter what. It's either too much, not enough, you arrested this group and not this group," said police spokeswoman Tina Jones. "It seems like some people are keeping score and that's not what it's about on the law enforcement side. One hundred percent, it's about public safety."

In addition to the Proud Boys, the white nationalist American Guard and the Three Percenters, a far-right militia, have all said they will have members in Portland. Hate group watchdogs say the Daily Stormers, a neo-Nazi group, are also expected.

The Oath Keepers, another

far-right militia group, said in a statement late Thursday they were pulling out of the rally because organizers have not done enough to keep white supremacist groups away. The group's founder, Stewart Rhodes, said while he agreed with the rally's goal of opposing antifascists, he was concerned about the violent rhetoric posted online that could cause legal problems for those who attend. □



In this Aug. 4, 2018 file photo, Patriot Prayer founder and rally organizer Joey Gibson speaks to his followers at a rally in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

## Customs and Border Protection outage snarls major airports

By DAVID KOENIG  
AP Airlines Writer

**DALLAS (AP)** — Travelers flying into the United States on Friday ran into long lines at major airports nationwide because of a temporary computer outage that affected the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency.

Airports warned travelers — both Americans returning home and foreign visitors — of delays, and some travelers tweeted photos and videos of huge lines. A CBP spokeswoman said the systems were running again by early evening on the East Coast.

The agency didn't precisely describe the breakdown, but the spokeswoman said there was "no indication of any nefarious activity." She said officers were able to access security-related databases and maintain security standards while screening people manu-

ally.

Rebekah Tromble, an associate professor at George Washington University, tweeted a video clip in which she panned over the arrival hall at Dulles International Airport in northern Virginia. She estimated there were at least 5,000 people packed into the hall. Tromble was asked if she could see whether customs agents were screening people manually.

"It's not clear from my vantage point. I'm still too far back in line," she answered. Airports in Los Angeles, Dallas-Fort Worth, New York and elsewhere notified travelers of potential delays at the beginning of one of the last weekends of the summer vacation season.

The port authority that operates New York's JFK Airport and the airport in Newark, New Jersey, said additional staff and police



In this photo provided by Twitter user Ninis Samuel, travelers stand in long lines to clear Customs at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Friday, Aug. 16, 2019, in New York, due to a temporary computer outage that affected U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Associated Press

officers monitored situation and helped where needed. Los Angeles International Airport said it sent staffers to CBP areas to help direct travelers. □





In this Friday, June 21, 2019 photo, Democratic presidential candidate, South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg speaks at a forum hosted by the Black Economic Alliance in Charleston, S.C.

Associated Press

## 'A heavy lift': Religious black voters weigh Buttigieg's bid

By MEG KINNARD  
Associated Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — Joe Darby, a South Carolina pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, pondered a sensitive question that he knew was on the mind of his congregation. Would black voters be able to reconcile their conservative religious doctrine with voting for a gay candidate for president?

"It's a heavy lift in the black church," says Darby, who is also a Charleston-area NAACP leader. "Just as nobody who is racist likes to say, 'I'm a racist,' nobody who is homophobic in the black community likes to say, 'I'm homophobic.'"

In South Carolina, the first state with a predominantly African American electorate, part of the dialogue focuses on a conflict between a cultural openness for same-sex marriage and the deeply held religious convictions that could impede support for the 2020 race's only gay candidate — Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana. The historically diverse field of Democratic presidential hopefuls is overflowing with options. But it is also forcing conversations about the roles — if any — that gender, race and, for the first time, sexuality should play in voters' decisions.

Black voters comprise more than 60% of South Carolina's Democratic electorate. But an overwhelming majority of African Americans — 79%, according to a recent Pew study — also identify as Christians, which some church leaders note can contribute to internal strife between their religious convictions and how they feel about a gay candidate, if they think doctrine says it's wrong.

"I'm interested to see how Buttigieg is going to play," said Darby, saying that the mayor "does the best job of articulating his faith of any of the candidates" but is inherently running up against barriers with those to whom

he's still an unknown. "The most damning comment was at a clergy breakfast, and when his name was brought up another guy said, 'Yeah, that's the guy who kissed his husband on TV.'"

Buttigieg's husband, Chasten, has not traveled to South Carolina to campaign. Chris Meagher, Buttigieg's spokesman, said voters are still getting acquainted with the mayor, who this month became the first 2020 Democratic candidate to hire a faith outreach director.

"Pete is focused on meeting folks where they are," Meagher said. "It just means quantity of time and spending time with folks and making sure that he's listening to their concerns and that they're hearing his plans and his policies and his values."

Besides his overt expressions of his faith, Buttigieg also has offered a broad policy agenda for African Americans and has been outspoken on the issue of race. But he consistently polls in the low single digits among black voters.

Buttigieg, 37, has acknowledged he has ground to make up in terms of making his case to African American voters in South Carolina, where he also attended a Black Economic Alliance forum this summer. On Friday, he sat for an interview with black church leaders in Atlanta. This weekend, he'll return to South Carolina, planning a series of town halls and attending an AME church service.

His marriage didn't come up directly at the Atlanta event, but Buttigieg drew audible murmurs when he casually mentioned his husband.

"I'm married to a teacher, and he's a proud teacher," Buttigieg said during an answer to a question about student debt.

With six months until South Carolina's vote, Buttigieg, like many others in the field, is still working to intro-

duce himself to the electorate. But in some corners of South Carolina's faith community, according to Darby, first impressions may have already hampered Buttigieg's on-the-ground debut efforts.

Jon Black, an AME pastor along South Carolina's coast in Bluffton, said that he presumes the church will ultimately move past any divisions over homosexuality and same-sex marriage, as it did previously with divorce.

"If we can get in a time machine and go down the road 25 years, I think the issue would be resolved," Black said. "It may take us 25 years to make that turn, but we've always supported the disinherited, disenfranchised. ... We've got to stand with those people who may be the most threatened."

The church as a whole may not make that change anytime soon, but Black said he didn't feel that the issue of Buttigieg's sexuality would override his support if his policy positions prove strong.

"If it gets down to two or three candidates and one happens to be gay, I don't think that would be a problem for black communities," Black said. The attempt to square a willingness to hear all candidates out with a faith-based attitude toward issues of homosexuality is surfacing in conversations in some church communities. Seated in a basement fellowship hall, as Wednesday night services boomed in the sanctuary above, several members of Nicholtown Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, South Carolina, mulled over the intersection of sexuality and what many of them agreed should be 2020's top imperative.

In some circles of faith, LaVelle Pitts said, relying on biblical crutches like the story of Sodom and Gomorrah as a condemnation of homosexuality can be convenient, but it's not the full story. □

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# Medical examiner rules Epstein death a suicide by hanging

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York City's medical examiner ruled Jeffrey Epstein's death a suicide Friday, confirming after nearly a week of speculation that the financier hanged himself in his jail cell.

Epstein, 66, was found dead in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City on Aug. 10, touching off outrage and disbelief over how such a high-profile prisoner, known for socializing with powerful people including presidents Donald Trump and Bill Clinton, could have gone unwatched.

Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Barbara Sampson said in a statement that she made the suicide determination "after careful review of all investigative information, including complete autopsy findings."

The Bureau of Prisons said at the time Epstein had apparently killed himself, but that didn't squelch conspiracy theories about his death.

One of Epstein's lawyers, Marc Fernich, declined to comment. An office telephone number for Dr. Michael Baden, the pathologist hired by Epstein's representatives to observe the autopsy, rang unanswered. Epstein, who was charged with sexually abusing numerous underage girls over several years, had been placed on suicide watch last month after he was found on his cell floor July 23 with bruises on his neck. But multiple people familiar with operations at the jail say he was taken off the watch after about a week and put back in a high-security housing unit where he was less closely monitored, but still supposed to be checked on every 30 minutes.

Attorney General William Barr says officials have uncovered "serious irregularities" at the jail. The FBI and the Justice Department's inspector general are both investigating.

After news of Epstein's

death went public, U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said the federal investigation into the allegations against Epstein remains steadfast.

Barr also warned that "any co-conspirators should not rest easy."

"Let me assure you that this case will continue on against anyone who was complicit," Barr said. "The victims deserve justice, and they will get it."

Jail guards on duty the night of Epstein's death are suspected of falsifying log entries to show they were checking on inmates every half hour as required, according to several people familiar with the matter. Both were working overtime because of staffing shortages at the jail, the people said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they lacked authorization to publicly discuss the investigation.

The Associated Press often does not report details of suicide methods but has made an exception because Epstein's cause of death is pertinent to the ongoing investigations.

The Washington Post and The New York Times reported Thursday that the autopsy revealed that a bone in Epstein's neck had been broken, leading to speculation his death was a homicide, though experts said the bone in question often breaks in suicidal hangings. Sampson issued a statement Thursday in response to those articles, saying: "In all forensic investigations, all information must be synthesized to determine the cause and manner of death. Everything must be consistent; no single finding can be evaluated in a vacuum."

Autopsy reports are not public records in New York and the details of the medical examiner's finding, or what evidence she relied upon, were not immediately made available.

Epstein, 66, was a wealth manager who hobnobbed with the rich, famous and

influential, including presidents and a prince.

He owned a private island in the Caribbean, homes in Paris and New York City, a New Mexico ranch, and a fleet of high-price cars. His friends had once included Britain's Prince Andrew, Clinton and Trump. Clinton and Trump both said they hadn't seen Epstein in years when new charges were brought against him last month.

The medical examiner's ruling came a day after two more women sued Jeffrey Epstein's estate, saying he sexually abused them.

The suit, filed Thursday in a federal court in New York, claims the women were



This March 28, 2017, file photo, provided by the New York State Sex Offender Registry shows Jeffrey Epstein. New York City's medical examiner has ruled Epstein's death a suicide.

Associated Press

working as hostesses at a popular Manhattan restaurant in 2004 when they were recruited to give Epstein massages.

One was 18 at the time. The other was 20.

The lawsuit says an un-

identified female recruiter offered the hostesses hundreds of dollars to provide massages to Epstein, saying he "liked young, pretty girls to massage him," and wouldn't engage in any unwanted touching. □

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# Court: U.S. can reject asylum along parts of Mexico border

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT**  
Associated Press

**HOUSTON (AP)** — A federal appeals court on Friday cleared the way for the U.S. government to forbid Central American immigrants from seeking asylum at the two busiest stretches of the southern border in a partial legal victory for the Trump administration. The ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals allows President Donald Trump to enforce the policy in New Mexico and Texas, rejecting asylum seekers who cross from Mexico into either state. Under Friday's ruling, U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar's July 24 order stopping the policy would apply only in California and Arizona, which are covered by the 9th Circuit.

The two busiest areas for unauthorized border crossings are in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley and the region around El Paso, Texas, which includes New Mexico. Nearly 50,000 people in July crossed the U.S. border without permission in those two regions, according to the U.S. Border Patrol.

The policy would deny asylum to anyone who passes through another country on the way to the U.S. without



In this Wednesday, April 24, 2019 file photo, a Guatemalan man poses for a photo with his young son at the new Casa del Refugiado in east El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

seeking protection there. Most crossing the southern border are Central Americans fleeing violence and poverty, who would largely be ineligible. The policy would also apply to people from Africa, Asia, and South America who come to the southern border to request asylum.

If the policy is implemented, ineligible migrants who

cross in New Mexico and Texas could be detained and more quickly deported. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment Friday.

Under American law, people can request asylum when they arrive in the U.S. regardless of how they enter. The law makes an ex-

ception for those who have come through a country considered to be "safe" pursuant to an agreement between the U.S. and that country.

Canada and the U.S. have a "safe third country" agreement. But the U.S. doesn't have one with Mexico or countries in Central America. The Trump administration has tried to

sign one with Guatemala, but the country's incoming president said this week that Guatemala would not be able to uphold a tentative deal reached by his predecessor.

The U.S. government is already turning away many asylum seekers at the southern border.

About 30,000 people have been returned to Mexico to await asylum hearings under the government's Migrant Protection Protocols program. Tens of thousands of others are waiting in shelters and camps to present themselves to U.S. border agents at official ports of entry that have strict daily limits on asylum seekers.

Mexico's asylum system is itself overwhelmed, and there are widespread reports of migrants being attacked and extorted. Border cities across from New Mexico and Texas include Juarez, Nuevo Laredo, and Reynosa, all of which are well-known for their violence and gang presence. Tigar had ruled the policy could expose migrants to violence and abuse, deny their rights under international law, and return them to countries they were fleeing. □

# Colorado OKs electric car requirement to fight air pollution

By **DAN ELLIOTT**  
Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — Colorado tightened its air quality regulations on Friday, requiring that at least 5% of the vehicles sold in the state by 2023 emit zero pollution.

The state Air Quality Control Commission, which passed the rule on an 8-1 vote, said the requirement applies to auto manufacturers, not buyers. It's intended to boost the number of electric vehicles in a state struggling to control ozone pollution in its most heavily populated area.

The minimum rises to 6.23% in 2025.

Colorado is the 11th state to adopt zero-emission standards, according to Green Car Reports, which tracks developments in low-pollution vehicles.



In this June 26, 2018 file photo, a Nissan Leaf charges at a re-charge station while parked by the Denver City County Building in downtown Denver.

Associated Press

Two auto industry groups, Global Automakers and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, applauded the rule. They said they had been working with Colorado officials on how to structure the requirement.

John Bozzella, president of Global Automakers, said Colorado had adopted an innovative policy by collaborating with manufacturers.

Environmental groups also welcomed the standards,

but the Colorado Freedom to Drive Coalition called them costly and ineffective.

"We believe commissioners did a disservice to all Coloradans, but especially Coloradans of modest means," coalition spokeswoman Sara Almerri said.

Regulators said the zero-emission standard is aimed at reducing ozone and greenhouse gases, which contribute to climate change.

Democratic Gov. Jared Polis directed the Air Quality Control Commission to set a zero-emissions standard shortly after he took office in January. In a statement Friday, he said the new rule was "only the beginning" of the state's work to reduce air pollution.

Excessive ground-level

ozone has plagued Colorado's urban areas for years. Ozone is the main component of smog and can aggravate asthma and contribute to early deaths from respiratory disease. It's created from pollution emitted by vehicles, the oil and gas industry and other sources. Ozone alerts have frequently flashed on signs over Denver freeways this summer, asking drivers to reduce car trips.

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Denver and the northern Colorado urban corridor failed to meet federal ozone standards and said the state must come up with a new plan to clean up the air.

The state is also rewriting air pollution rules for the oil and gas industry. □





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In this April 26, 2019, file photo, National Rifle Association President Col. Oliver North speaks at the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action Leadership Forum at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

## NRA wants a role when Oliver North meets state investigators

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A National Rifle Association leader-turned-critic is meeting with New York investigators next week, and the NRA wants to be there.

New York's attorney general's office is questioning Oliver North on Tuesday as it probes whether the NRA broke laws governing its nonprofit status.

The powerful gun lobby asked a New York state judge Friday to let it in the meeting, saying it would be "severely prejudiced" if privileged information is divulged.

In court papers, it said it had asked the attorney general's office to be included in the meeting but was told it would be burdensome and was refused. The NRA cited grounds why some information could be kept from investigators, including attorney client privilege, work-product rules and other unspecified privileges.

NRA lawyers said they reviewed 899 pages of documents from North's lawyers that were prepared for

investigators and found several dozen examples of privileged information that had not been redacted.

In a statement, New York Attorney General Letitia James defended the integrity of her office.

"The NRA's scare tactics simply won't work here," the statement said. "Our investigation is proceeding with the same focus and fairness we apply to any case. Whether its deposing NRA leaders or fact finding through other investigative tools, we will ensure that justice is served because no one is above the law."

The NRA is facing several legal battles. The attorney general of Washington, D.C., has subpoenaed the group and its related charitable organization in a probe into financial misconduct allegations. The U.S. Senate Finance Committee also has launched an investigation into the NRA's operations.

North was forced out as the NRA's president in the spring just ahead of the group's annual meeting. □



This photo released by NYPD shows a person of interest wanted for questioning in regard to the suspicious items placed inside the Fulton Street subway station in Lower Manhattan on Friday, Aug. 16, 2019 in New York.

Associated Press

## Police seek to question man in NYC rice cooker bomb scare

By JENNIFER PELTZ  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Three abandoned devices that looked like pressure cookers caused an evacuation of a major New York City subway station and closed off an intersection in another part of town Friday morning before police determined the objects were not explosives.

Police were looking to talk to a man seen on surveillance video taking two of the objects — which police identified as rice cookers — out of a shopping cart and placing them in a subway station in lower Manhattan. In photos released by authorities, the young man is seen standing by an elevator and then lugging a cooker in.

But police stressed that so far, it wasn't clear whether he was trying to frighten people or merely throwing the objects away.

"I would stop very short of

calling him a suspect," said John Miller, the New York Police Department's top counterterrorism official. "It is possible that somebody put out a bunch of items in the trash today and this guy picked them up and then discarded them, or it's possible that this was an intentional act."

Earlier, Gov. Andrew Cuomo had said authorities suspected the items were placed in the subway "to suggest that they were electronic devices and possible bombs."

Many rice cookers look like pressure cookers, but the latter use pressure to cook food quickly — a function that has been used to turn them into bombs.

Police swarmed the initial finds around 7 a.m. on the mezzanine and platform of the Fulton Street station, a few blocks from the World Trade Center and New York Stock Exchange. Dozens of suspicious packages

are reported daily in New York City, but the proximity to the site of the Sept. 11 attacks served to heighten anxiety before police gave the all-clear.

About two hours later, a third rice cooker — the same make, year and model — was also found about 2 miles away (3 kilometers) on a sidewalk in the Chelsea neighborhood, prompting another police investigation.

"This is a frightening world we live in, and all of these situations have to be taken seriously because God forbid one day ... it's a real device," said Cuomo, a Democrat. "We learned the hard way after 9/11, and we are prepared."

Michael Oji, a New Jersey resident who works in lower Manhattan, said he's lived in the metro area for more than 20 years and saw the additional security that came to the area after the Sept. 11 attacks. □

# Tlaib declines to visit West Bank, citing Israeli conditions

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib said Friday she would not visit her grandmother in the occupied West Bank, despite being granted an Israeli permit on humanitarian grounds, saying Israel's "oppressive" conditions aimed to humiliate her.

Israel barred Tlaib and another Democrat, Rep. Ilhan Omar, from visiting Jerusalem and the West Bank over their support for the international boycott movement following an unprecedented appeal from President Donald Trump to deny them entry.

Israel had said Tlaib could visit relatives in the West Bank on humanitarian grounds. But then the Interior Ministry released a letter purportedly signed by Tlaib in which she promised not to advocate boycotts during her visit. That appears to have led to her decision to cancel the visit.

"Visiting my grandmother under these oppressive conditions meant to humiliate me would break my grandmother's heart," she said in a statement. "Silencing me with treatment to make me feel less-than is not what she wants for me — it would kill a piece of me that always stands up against racism and injustice."

Tlaib and Omar had planned to visit Jerusalem and the Israeli-occupied West Bank next week on a tour organized by a Palestinian group. The two are outspoken critics of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and support the Palestinian-led international movement boycotting Israel.

The two newly elected Muslim members of Congress have sparred with Trump, who tweeted before the decision that it would be a "show of weakness" to allow them in. Israel controls entry and exit to the West Bank, which it seized in the 1967 Mideast war along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip — territories the Palestinians want for a future state.

Israeli Interior Minister Aryeh



**U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., listens to a question from a constituent in Wixom, Mich., Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019.**

Associated Press

Deri announced early Friday that Tlaib had requested and been granted permission to enter the West Bank to see relatives. The U.S.-born Tlaib's family immigrated from the West Bank. Deri's office released what it said was Tlaib's request, written on congressional stationery and dated Thursday, in which she said she wanted to visit her grandmother, who is in her 90s.

"This could be my last opportunity to see her. I will respect any restrictions and will not promote boycotts against Israel during my visit," she said. Tlaib's office could not immediately be reached for comment on the letter's authenticity.

Shortly after the announcement, Tlaib tweeted that she wouldn't allow Israel to use her love for her grandmother to force her to "bow down to their oppressive & racist policies."

"When I won (in 2018), it gave the Palestinian people hope that someone will finally speak the truth about the inhumane conditions. I can't allow the State of Israel to take away that light by humiliating me," she

wrote.

Bassam Tlaib, an uncle who lives in the West Bank, expressed support for her decision.

"If Rashida's visit to her homeland is under conditions, we reject that," he said. "It's Rashida's right as a Palestinian to come and visit her family and country."

Some Palestinians had expressed disappointment with the letter. Ali Abunimah, a prominent Palestinian activist, tweeted that Tlaib should have used her platform to highlight Israel's restrictions "instead of writing that humiliating letter asking the occupier to treat her as an exception in exchange for abiding by its 'restrictions.'"

Deri, the interior minister, said after the cancellation that her initial request was apparently a "provocative request, aimed at bashing the State of Israel."

"Apparently her hate for Israel overcomes her love for her grandmother," he tweeted.

Trump's request to a foreign country to bar the entry of elected U.S. officials — and

Israel's decision to do so — were unprecedented and drew widespread criticism, including from many Israelis as well as staunch supporters of Israel in Congress. Critics said it risked turning Israel into a partisan issue and threatened to undermine ties between the close allies.

Tlaib and Omar are known as supporters of "boycott, divestment and sanctions," or BDS, a Palestinian-led global movement. Supporters say the movement is a nonviolent way of protesting Israel's military rule over the occupied territories, but Israel says it aims to delegitimize the state and eventually wipe it off the map.

The two congresswomen are part of the "squad" of liberal newcomers — all women of color — whom Trump has labeled as the face of the Democratic Party as he runs for re-election. He subjected them to a series of racist tweets last month in which he called on them to "go back" to their "broken" countries. They are U.S. citizens.

Trump's recruitment of a

longtime U.S. ally to punish his domestic rivals was a glaring departure from the tradition of American politicians leaving such disputes at the water's edge.

Israel announced the ban Thursday after Trump tweeted that "it would show great weakness" if the two were allowed to visit. Asked later if he had spoken to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he said, "I did talk to people over there," without elaborating. In a tweet, Omar disputed Netanyahu's claim that she and Tlaib didn't ask to meet with Israeli government or opposition officials. She said they planned to meet with Jewish and Arab members of the Israeli parliament plus other Israeli officials.

For Israel, the willingness to side so pointedly with Trump marks a deeper foray into America's bitterly polarized politics and risks its relationship with Congress.

Netanyahu's embrace of Trump has yielded major gains for the Israeli right, including the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Trump's acceptance of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, which it seized from Syria in the 1967 war, provided a boost to Netanyahu ahead of April's elections.

Netanyahu might be hoping for a similar jolt ahead of next month's polls, which were called after he failed to form a coalition government. Reactions in the Israeli media to the decision to bar the congresswomen were split, with Netanyahu's opponents accusing him of kowtowing to a divisive U.S. president and endangering bilateral relations and supporters saying he had no choice but to fully back an important ally in the White House.

"Just like Trump's base in America does not like the extreme left-wing elements of the Democratic Party, (Netanyahu's) base in Israel does not like them," said Reuven Hazan, a political science professor at Hebrew University. "It serves his base. It does not serve the state of Israel." □



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## Dutch Princess Christina, sister of former queen, dies at 72

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — Dutch Princess Christina, the youngest sister of former Queen Beatrix, died Friday after a battle with bone cancer. She was 72.

Christina, the youngest of four daughters of the late Queen Juliana and her German-born husband Prince Bernhard, died at the Noordeinde Palace in The Hague, according to the Dutch Royal House.

In a tweet, King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima and Beatrix described Christina as "a striking personality with a warm heart." Publicity-shy Christina and her former husband Jorge Guillermo, the son of a Cuban doctor, had three children, Bernardo, Nicolás and Juliana. The couple divorced in 1996.

The marriage removed Christina from the line of succession to the Dutch throne and allowed her to live outside the royal court. During her life, she lived in countries including Italy, the United States and Canada.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said by relinquishing her right to the throne, Christina "created room for herself to lead her own life. A life dominated by family, her great love of music and development of young singing talent."

Christina was born partially blind and her mother's decision to seek help from a faith healer, Greet Hof-



Undated handout photo of Dutch Princess Christina.  
Associated Press

mans, led to a royal crisis in the 1950s.

Hofmans reportedly exerted increasing influence over Queen Juliana to the annoyance of Prince Bernhard, leading to rumors of a possible divorce. The royal couple, however, remained married.

Christina's remains will be taken to Fagel's Garden Pavilion on the grounds of Noordeinde Palace, where friends and family will pay their last respects before a private cremation. □

## Greenland to Trump: Thanks, but we're not for sale

By SETH BORENSTEIN and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

**TASIILAQ, Greenland (AP)** — Greenlanders are giving Donald Trump the cold shoulder.

Although amused, they're definitely not warming up to the U.S. president's talk of buying the semiautonomous Danish territory.

"We see it as an expression of greater interest in investing in our country and the possibilities we offer," the Greenland government said Friday in a short statement. "Of course, Greenland is not for sale."

Reports that Trump had spoken about the notion of buying the land mass, which lies between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans, were good for a laugh, residents said.

"He has nothing to do with Greenland," said 28-year-old Martina M.D.D. Tay, who was born and raised in Tasilaq, a coastal Greenland town of about 2,000 people. "I think it's a ridiculous idea. I think it sounds stupid."

Lars Loekke Rasmussen, who served as Danish prime minister until June, weighed in on social media, tweeting "it must be an April Fool's Day joke" that was out of season.

A Trump ally told The Associated Press on Thursday that the Republican president had discussed the purchase but was not serious about it. And a Republican congressional aide said Trump brought up the no-



In this photo taken on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, icebergs are photographed from the window of an airplane carrying NASA Scientists as they fly on a mission to track melting ice in eastern Greenland.

Associated Press

tion of buying Greenland in conversations with American lawmakers enough times to make them wonder, but they have not taken his comments seriously. Both spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

"Because of the unofficial nature of the news, the government of Greenland has no further comments," Greenland said on its website.

The White House has not commented on the reports, but it wouldn't be the first time an American leader tried to buy the world's largest island.

In 1946, the U.S. proposed paying Denmark \$100 million to buy Greenland after flirting with the idea of swapping land in Alaska for strategic parts of the Arctic island.

When she heard that Donald Trump wants to buy

Greenland, Tina Joergensen laughed.

"I thought it was a joke," said Joergensen, a native of Denmark who was flying from tiny Kulusuk on Greenland's eastern coast to the larger Tasilaq for a new job as a nurse. "He can buy anything I guess, or this is what he thinks he can. But you can't — sorry. In my view, you can't buy a country. It's very disrespectful."

Jakob Ipsen was less than impressed with the possibility Trump may want to purchase his nation. Ipsen has something in common with the U.S. president: Both run hotels. Ipsen's hotel is smaller than a Trump one and provides hands-on service, such as finding boats and driving guests around. Ipsen noted there's a history of outsiders unsuccessfully wanting to take over the giant, mostly barren island. □



# Activist emerges as new leader of Moscow election protests

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA

Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — After a monthlong hunger strike, it's a struggle for Lyubov Sobol to even raise her hands. Every gesture is difficult for the frail 31-year-old political activist.

This summer's wave of anti-government protests in Moscow propelled her to the forefront of Russia's opposition movement. Her name rang out on the streets of the capital, packed with demonstrators angered by the refusal of election authorities to allow independent candidates, including Sobol, on the ballot for the Moscow Duma, or city council.

Sobol has been the prime target of attacks by both the Kremlin-friendly media and election officials.

"The attitude to me is different because I work harder than others and I don't let people get away with lies," Sobol told The Associated Press. "I'm not afraid of telling people to their face what I think of them."

Moscow has been gripped by weekly protests for more than a month over the nearly two dozen candidates from across the political spectrum who have been excluded from the Sept. 8 election.

The numbers continue to grow: the Aug. 10 rally was Russia's biggest in eight years, and heavy-hand-



In this file photo taken on July 20, 2019, Russian opposition candidate and lawyer at the Foundation for Fighting Corruption Lyubov Sobol speaks to a crowd during a protest in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

ed police tactics against peaceful protesters illustrates just how jittery the Kremlin is about the movement. More than 2,000 people were detained, and videos of riot police beating protesters were widely circulated.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov broke a month of silence Monday, praising the police and saying President Vladimir Putin has not spoken on the subject because he views the rallies as too insignificant to worry about.

Sobol, bespectacled and with a pony tail of platinum blond hair, has emerged

in what has mostly been a leaderless movement, galvanized by the authorities' disregard for voters' rights. Protesters have been chanting her name at the rallies as well as slogans rich with wordplay: Lyubov literally means "love" in Russian. A graduate of Russia's most prestigious law school, she has been behind some of the most visible anti-corruption investigations run by the country's undisputed opposition leader, Alexei Navalny.

She uncovered ties between the Russian government and St. Petersburg tycoon Yevgeny Prigozhin,

years before the U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller indicted him for allegedly funding the internet trolls involved in interfering with the U.S. presidential election in 2016. She led a campaign this year against Prigozhin's catering companies that were linked to an outbreak of dysentery in Moscow schools. Prigozhin denied any wrongdoing in the troll farm and his companies deny they were to blame for the dysentery outbreak.

Sobol was also one of the founders of Navalny's hugely popular YouTube channel that now boasts

an audience rivaling Kremlin-controlled TV stations.

Leonid Volkov, Navalny's top strategist who has known Sobol for nearly a decade, describes her as a tough and "strong, remarkable leader" who "always stands her ground."

One of Navalny's original disciples, Sobol has worked with him on various political and anti-corruption campaigns since 2011. In a blog post Friday from jail, where he is serving a sentence for calling an unsanctioned protest, Navalny said he was "happy that a new, full-pledged political leader has been born."

She rejects suggestions of a solo career and says she is more focused on the common goals of the protest movement, not personal ambitions. "What's important to me is to bring to life the ideas that I came to work here for," she said, sitting in Navalny's office in Moscow. "I want to live in a country where rights and freedoms are respected, a country with independent courts and independent media." During the recent protests, Sobol appeared to be one step ahead of the other opposition figures, going on the hunger strike, staging a sit-in at the offices of the Russian Election Commission and plunging into a heated and emotional debate with the commission's head. □

# Kim expresses 'great satisfaction' over weapons tests

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — North Korea on Saturday said leader Kim Jong Un supervised another test-firing of an unspecified new weapon that extended a streak of weapons demonstrations seen as an attempt to pressure Washington and Seoul over slow nuclear negotiations and their joint military exercises. Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency on Saturday said Kim following Friday's launches expressed "great satisfaction" over his military's "mysterious and

amazing success rates" in recent testing activity and vowed to build up "invincible military capabilities no one dare provoke." The report did not mention any specific comment on the United States or South Korea.

Friday's launches were North Korea's sixth round of tests since late July that revealed developments of a new rocket artillery system and two separate short-range mobile ballistic missile systems that experts say would expand the North's ability to strike targets throughout South Korea, in-

cluding U.S. bases there. KCNA did not describe what Friday's weapons were or how they performed, but it said that the tests were successful and strengthened the military's confidence in the reliability of the system.

South Korea's military says two projectiles launched from the North's eastern coast flew about 230 kilometers (143 miles) before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the U.S. and South Korean militaries were analyzing the launch-

es but didn't immediately say whether the weapons were ballistic missiles or rocket artillery.

Experts say President Donald Trump's repeated downplaying of the North's launches allowed the country more room to intensify its testing activity and advance its short-range weaponry while it seeks to build leverage ahead of nuclear negotiations with Washington, which could resume after the end of ongoing allied military drills later this month.

North Korea has also ignored South Korean calls

for dialogue recently and is seen as trying to force Seoul to make stronger efforts to coax major concessions from Washington on its behalf. South Korea's military alerted reporters to the launches hours after an unidentified North Korean government spokesman used unusually blunt language to criticize South Korean President Moon Jae-in for continuing to hold military exercises with the U.S. and over his rosy comments on inter-Korean diplomacy, and said Pyongyang has no current plans to talk with Seoul. □





In this Jan. 4, 2015 file photo, the computer, modem and intranet network cabling belonging to Rafael Antonio Broche Moreno sits on a desk at his home in Havana.

Associated Press

## Cuban state to absorb underground video-gamers' network

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ

Associated

**HAVANA (AP)** — After weeks of resistance from Cuban video gamers, the island's state-run computer organization will absorb the services of an offline underground network that for more than a decade extended privately in Havana.

The state's Youth Computer Club will take control of SNET — a merging of the words Street and Network — thanks to a law that came into force in late July and authorizes Cubans to have private networks, while paradoxically dismantling the largest of them.

"This service will grow with the increased infrastructure" of the Youth Computer Club, Pablo Julio Plá Fera, general director of the Communications Ministry, told local media Thursday night. His comments were a response to protests by SNET users.

SNET expanded rapidly over the past decade without the internet, relying instead on wireless connections and cables strung between houses and buildings. The system's antennas are visible on Havana rooftops.

Observers say it has more than 40,000 users in the capital, many of whom use it to play games like World of Warcraft or Battlefield or discuss sports. It emerged

as a way to play multi-player video games in an offline mode. Talking politics, exchanging pornography or insulting is prohibited. The network operated in a gray area in that it was not illegal but was not allowed either. But the new regulations allow only lower power networks covering small areas, leaving SNET now outside the law.

"SNET is a family," 24-year-old user Ernesto de Armas told The Associated Press in a Twitter interview. "Someone who is not a 'gamer' in Cuba won't understand what it feels like to lose not only these fantastic universes, but the community."

When the law went into effect July 29, opposition grew and users requested the law be amended to allow SNET to continue operating. In addition to the protests, a Twitter campaign was launched under the label #YoSoySnet and #FuerzaSnet. Some young people like de Armas say they have been visited by police.

Youth Computer Club officials have begun conducting pilot tests for SNET users and said they will increase their infrastructure to comply with the new law.

However, many of the gamers distrust the club and have doubts about its technical abilities. Those who are not near a club tower fear they will lose their connection to SNET. □



Christopher Landau, the new U.S. ambassador to Mexico, delivers a statement to members of the media at the Benito Juárez International Airport, upon his arrival to Mexico City, Friday, Aug. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

## New U.S. Ambassador arrives in Mexico with 'hand extended'

By PETER ORSI

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — New U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Christopher Landau arrived in Mexico City on Friday to take up one of Washington's most important diplomatic posts, which had been vacant for over a year, amid a tricky time for relations between the North American neighbors. Landau replaces Roberta Jacobson, the first woman to be the United States' envoy to Mexico, who resigned and retired in May 2018.

"I arrive with my hand extended. The United States wins when there is a prosperous and stable Mexico, and Mexico wins when there is a prosperous and stable United States," Landau said in brief remarks to journalists upon arriving at Mexico City's airport in the morning. He did not take questions.

The United States and Mexico have deep cultural, familial and economic ties. The United States buys about 80% of Mexican exports, some \$358 billion last year, and in the first quarter of this year Mexico was the United States' No. 1 commercial partner for the first time, ahead of Canada

and China.

But Landau's arrival comes after months of tensions over immigration and trade.

Mexico has cracked down a wave of mostly Central American migrants and asylum seekers moving through its territory after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to slap tariffs on imports from its southern neighbor. The number of migrants encountered by U.S. authorities in July dropped below 100,000 for the first time in five months, according to U.S. government data released last week.

A September deadline looms when the two countries are to evaluate progress on the issue.

The governments are also hoping for ratification of a trade deal with Canada that replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement. Mexico's Senate approved the agreement known as the USMCA in June, but U.S. lawmakers have yet to do so.

"Obviously there are challenges in the bilateral relationship, but they are the challenges ... of any relationship that is so close," Landau said.

"Our countries are partners,

neighbors and friends," he added. "It is that way today, and always will be."

Antonio Garza, who was U.S. ambassador to Mexico from 2002 to 2009, said Landau will be tasked with working with Mexico on the same issues that are perennially core to the relationship: trade, immigration and security.

"I think to various degrees at different times there's more urgency attached to each of those," Garza said. "With that said, I don't think that there has ever been a more critical time in terms of urgency as relates to trade, immigration and security."

Landau is a Harvard-educated lawyer who has argued nine cases before the Supreme Court and who clerked for Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas in the early 1990s, according to a bio provided by the U.S. Embassy.

While he lacks diplomatic experience, he is the son of career diplomat George Landau, who was ambassador to Venezuela, Chile and Paraguay. The younger Landau was born in Madrid, attended the American School in Asuncion, Paraguay, and speaks Spanish fluently. □



# AP Interview: Puerto Rico governor to stay, fight corruption

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— As a child, Puerto Rico's newest governor said she would stand on her balcony and hold imaginary trials, always finding the supposed defendants guilty. Now, after more than 32 years of public service as a district attorney and justice secretary, Wanda Vázquez finds herself leading a U.S. territory of 3.2 million people following a Supreme Court ruling last week that ousted her predecessor and appears to have calmed the political turmoil that led the island to have three governors in less than a week.

As justice secretary, Vázquez was automatically next in line to become governor after the court's ruling, a historic move she said will allow her to truly work for the people and respond to their needs because she is free of all political ties or obligations.

"I don't have that weight on my shoulders," she told The Associated Press in an interview. "I don't aspire to political office."

Vázquez is expected to finish the term of former Gov. Ricardo Rosselló, who resigned on Aug. 2 following popular protests fueled by anger over corruption, mismanagement of public



Puerto Rico Governor Wanda Vazquez poses for a photo during an interview with the Associated Press at the La Fortaleza, the official residence of the Governor of Puerto Rico, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Friday, Aug. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

funds and an obscenity-laced chat in which the governor and 11 other men including public officials mocked women, gay people and victims of Hurricane Maria, among others. She said her priorities are to fight corruption, secure federal hurricane recovery funds and help pull Puerto Rico out of its 13-year recession.

Vázquez told the AP that in the coming weeks, she plans to create a special team within Puerto Rico's Justice Department made

up of local and federal officials to crack down on corruption. She said all government contracts will be investigated, including those awarded as part of a billion-dollar hurricane reconstruction effort.

She also said she would be pressing the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump for funds that are sorely needed on an island still struggling to recover from the Category 4 storm that hit on Sept. 20, 2017.

"I have to fight for those funds," she said. "There

are still people who don't have roofs ... There are still people who don't have windows, who don't have doors, who completely lost their homes, who are living with relatives. There are people ... who are still feeling like they are not being treated equally, who feel they are being discriminated against, and we have to fight that."

Vázquez said restructuring part of Puerto Rico's more than \$70 billion public debt load also is important, adding that she met this week

with the chairman and executive director of a federal control board overseeing the island's finances amid the economic crisis.

Like Rosselló, she said she opposes austerity measures imposed by the board including pension cuts to a public system facing more than \$50 billion in unfunded pension liabilities: "They need (the money). We cannot cut them and force them all into poverty."

But in an allusion to Rosselló's public relationship with the board, she added, "We're not going to adopt a combative stance. ... We're going to collaborate because I want to pull Puerto Rico out of bankruptcy. I want the board to finish its job, but without sacrificing the people."

Despite all her upcoming plans, being governor is not a job Vázquez initially wanted.

In a recent Sunday tweet that created a media frenzy, Vázquez said she was not interested in the position. But she posted the tweet just days before the court in a unanimous vote on Aug. 7 found that the swearing in of nominated secretary of state Pedro Pierluisi was unconstitutional.

"That's when I decided I wasn't going to reject the challenge," she said. □



In this July 1, 2019 file photo, Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador delivers his speech during rally to celebrate the one-year anniversary of his election, in Mexico City's main square, the Zocalo.

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador repeated Friday his opposition to prosecuting former presi-

dents even as he said that a president would know everything that happened during his administration. The question of prosecut-

## Mexico president opposes prosecuting predecessors

ing ex-presidents has taken new life with prosecutors' pursuit of Rosario Robles, an ex-Cabinet minister of former President Enrique Peña Nieto.

This week a judge ordered that Robles be held in jail pending trial for allegedly knowing about the diversion of \$260 million of public funds going back to 2014 and not doing anything. The judge also told prosecutors to clarify whether Peña Nieto knew about it. Robles is accused of "wrongful exercise of

public service."

"Mexico's president has all of the information," López Obrador said. "All presidents know what happens."

López Obrador said if the public really wants to go after an ex-president he would consider holding a public vote on it. He has made battling corruption a centerpiece of his administration, but consistently said he doesn't want to pursue his predecessors. He has said he wants to move forward, not seek revenge.

The president also characterized as "legal sabotage" a judge's order Thursday to stop construction of a new commercial airport for the capital at the Santa Lucia military base until an injunction requested by organizations opposed to the project is resolved.

"Seeking injunctions against all the projects we're going is the national sport," López Obrador said. "I hope it's resolved quickly."

The judge's decision could be appealed by the government. □



# LOCAL



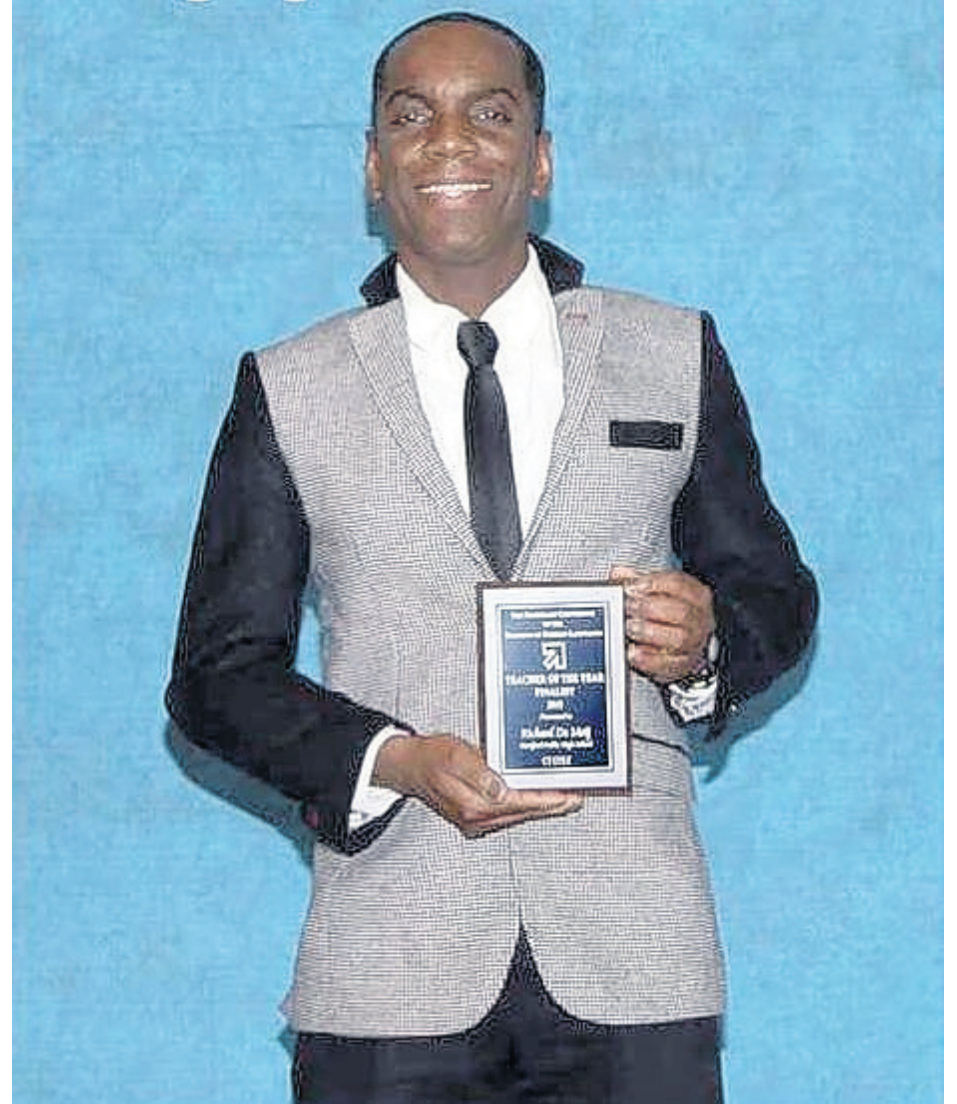
## Aruban wins Connecticut 2018-2019 Language Teacher of the Year



**CONNECTICUT** — Aruban Richard de Meij was chosen by the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers as Language Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019. De Meij is a Spanish and French teacher at Hartford Public High School's Academy of Nursing and Health Sciences. The Teacher of the Year Committee was impressed by the passion and energy that he brings to the profession. It was clear to them that his high energy approach is very effective in engaging the students in his classes. In fact, De Meij is an inspiration to his students to positively impact their own communities, as he has done in his own communities.

De Meij is an outstanding advocate for students in his classes, and for language and culture education in general. He is committed to social justice in his classes and school, and he has worked to become a specialist in equity educa-

tion. He thinks about how decisions about learning will impact all students, and how to reach all students in terms of their unique paths to proficiency. He strategizes ways to make all voices heard, especially those that have been traditionally left out of the conversation. De Meij's leadership path is extensive. He has presented and coordinated workshops at CT COLT's conference spanning many years. He has shared his numerous skills at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' (NECTFL) conference. He has even served in a leadership capacity for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Special Interest Group dedicated to the Teaching of African American Students. Currently, he is working to organize the Greater Hartford Festival of Languages to take place in the near future. Another area of leadership that can't be overlooked is his commitment



to languages in the community. He has worked to bring his students into the community to interact with Haitian families in Hartford churches. He worked to find speakers of French in the community, and has committed to bringing students to work with the families to practice their language skills, and in service to the families. It's hard to think of a better example of "Communities" in terms of ACTFL's World Readiness Standards than the work that De Meij is already doing for his students.

De Meij is an exemplary world language teacher. He speaks eight languages with differing levels of proficiency. He is also learning two other languages! He teaches both French and Spanish with an energy and passion that is contagious to his students. He understands and implements high leverage teaching practices in order to effectively promote language proficiency and reach the World Readiness Standards for his students. He is a demonstrated leader at the school, district, regional, and national levels.

### Biography

#### Educated at:

- Colegio Arubano (Aruba)
- University of Florida
- University of Utrecht (Neth.)
- Central CT State University

#### Degrees in:

- Speech/Lang.Pathology
- Applied Linguistics

#### Language Fluency in:

- Dutch (native)
- Papiamentu (native)
- English (native)
- Spanish (near-native)
- Portuguese (near-native)
- French (fluently)
- German (fluently)
- Italian (fair)

#### Other Languages Studied:

- Japanese & (modern) Greek
- Bulgarian & Tagalog
- Afrikaans (understood)
- Polish & Mainer (Mainah)

#### Currently Studying:

- Arabic (Egyptian MSA) ☐

Credits: Hartford Public School.





## Fun in the Sun at Aruba International Regatta 2019



**ORANJESTAD** —The 11th edition of Aruba International Regatta has started. A weekend of action and competition for big yachts, beach cats, and smaller boats like sunfishes and optimists as well as for windsurfers and micro boats; three evenings of music and party for all participants and spectators at the beach.

The sailors will compete for the overall trophy for the winner in the most competitive class. For the youngest sailors there will be optimist and sail cube races and there will be races for the wind surfers. At Gouverneurs beach there will be micro boat races and a workshop on building miniature boats organized by Rancho Foundation.

At Surfside Beach, next to the airport, you will find the regatta village. Here they ensure good entertainment, music, food and beverage and

a spectacular view on the races. More than 40 sailing races will take place in the waters of Oranjestad Harbour today and tomorrow from 9 AM until 5 PM. The Aruba International Regatta is not only an event for the participants in the races: the regatta village is a gathering point for people who want to enjoy a view of the races or have a relaxed afternoon on the beach in the regatta-mood. For the third year in a row, the Aruba Regatta Foundation has received a gold award from the Sailors for the Sea – Clean Regattas campaign, also this year's edition will be dedicated to the sustainable clean sailing campaign and all possible efforts will be made to reuse, reduce and recycle the resources for the event.

### Miniature Boat Competition

Rancho Foundation would like to invite you to the traditional Miniature Boat Competition that

will take place at the Governor's Bay Beach in Oranjestad. Today from 10 AM to 6 PM you will be able to see demonstrations and testing of the miniature boats.

Sunday August 18th is race day! The competition consists of 3 boat sizes; 30, 35, and 40 inches long. This will be from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information on this family event please call +297-562-8352 or send an email to [stichtingrancho@gmail.com](mailto:stichtingrancho@gmail.com)

This year's Regatta will surely be an event you shouldn't miss! Most participants are already preparing for the races and a number of international competitors have already confirmed their participation in the races. Checkout their website [www.aruba-regatta.com](http://www.aruba-regatta.com) or their Facebook page Aruba International Regatta for more information. □





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## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor one of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The symbolic Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honoree was **Aiden Wurst** from USA.

This lovely boy stated that he loves the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, beautiful sunsets, delicious variety of foods, and the amount of activities that Aruba has to offer!

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Marriott Aruba Ocean Club presented the certificate to the honoree, handed over some presents and also thanked his and his parents for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □





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## Aruba acts to protect endangered coral reefs

ORANJESTAD — Less than a year after announcing a total ban on the use of single-use plastic, Aruba has intensified its measures to protect its endangered coral reefs. In what is claimed to be “the biggest voluntarism project” on the island over a thousand volunteers - locals and visitors alike - will congregate on the beaches of the Dutch Caribbean island for the Aruba Reef Care Project on 19 September.

The volunteers efforts to clean both snorkel and dive sites, and beaches, is now supplemented by a coral nursery, funded by Aloe Aruba, which was recently unveiled in Savaneta. Historically, Savaneta was the island’s capital up to 1797.

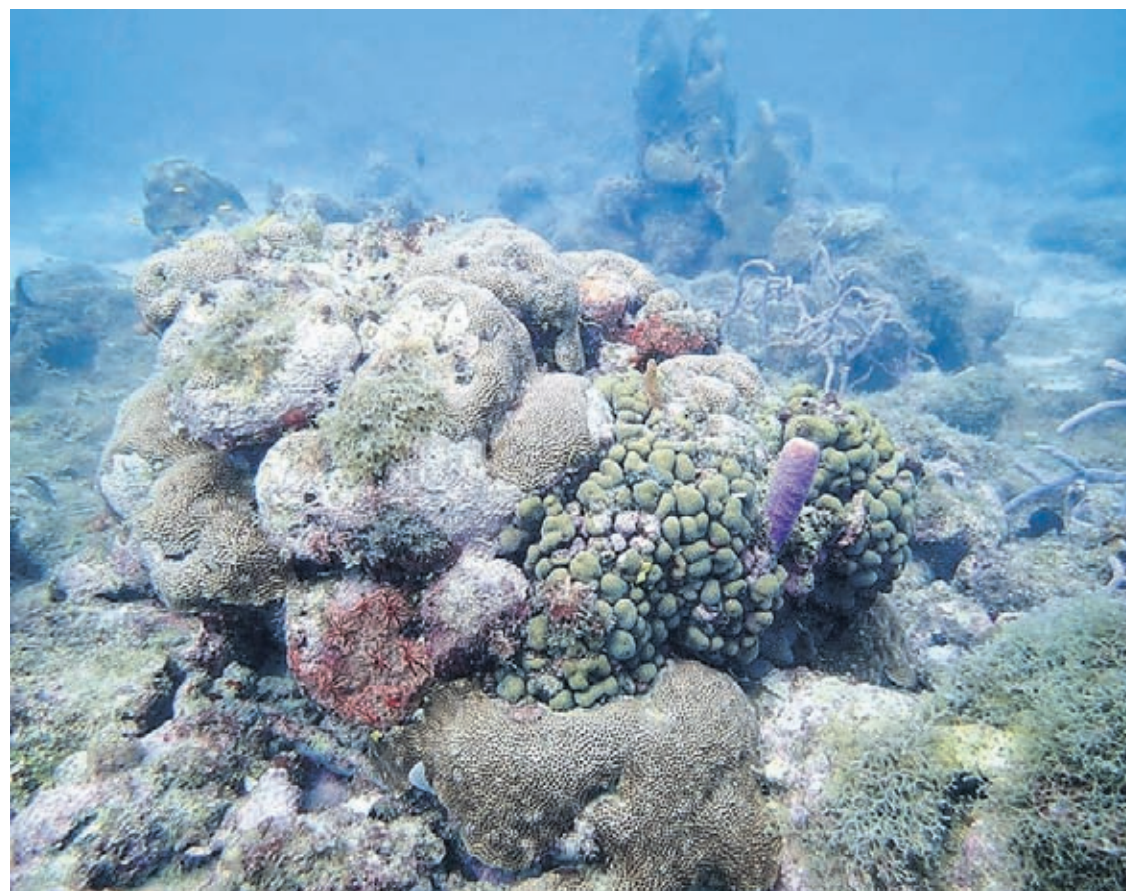
Aloe Aruba, which also produces coral-safe sunscreen, is partnering local youth diving group Scubble Bubbles, to help restore the island’s coral reefs.

In its effort to save the coral reefs, the nursery will be used to rehabilitate fragmented reef until it becomes sufficiently mature to be transplanted onto the coral reef by Scubble Bubble divers.

In 2017, the island’s authority banned the use of all single-use plastic bags, a measure that was extended the following year to include plastic cups, straws and Styrofoam boxes. The ban will be transitioned in until 2020. At the same time, sunscreens with oxybenzone, which damage the coral, will also be banished from the island.

Aruba intends to be fossil-free by the year 2020 in its continued efforts to preserve the island’s natural environment and preserve its endangered coral reefs.

Since 1995, the Aruba Reef Care Project has been perhaps the best known as well as largest volunteer environmental initiative on the island, raising awareness of



the need to preserve the sea environment. If you are interested in volunteering for the organization, email Castro Perez at castroperez@gmail.com.

If you can’t make the September date, an annual National Coastal Clean-Up Day is carried out each November, during which volunteers make

a clean sweep of Aruba beaches. □

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# SPORTS



## Hamlin wins 1st pole of season for Toyota and Gibbs

By JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer  
BRISTOL, Tenn. (AP) — Denny Hamlin has won the pole for Saturday night's race at Bristol Motor Speedway, a critical short-track showdown for drivers trying to qualify for the playoffs.

The Daytona 500 winner turned a lap at 129.230 mph in his Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing in Friday's qualifying session. His effort bumped Kyle Larson to second and Larson is not locked into the 16-driver playoff field with three races remaining to fill the final seven slots.

Winless on the season, Larson is ranked 13th in the standings and briefly held the pole until Hamlin's fast lap. The two planned to watch Friday night's Xfinity Series race together sitting in the Bristol stands, so Hamlin took great delight in knocking him from the top starting spot.

"I was wondering why he was giving me the finger when I pulled in," said Hamlin, who won not only his first pole of the season but the first for Toyota and JGR.

Larson still feels good about a strong run that can push him into a playoff spot. Only nine drivers have locked up berths and a victory earns an automatic spot in the championship race.

"I feel like we've been points racing a little bit lately," Larson said.

Continued on Page 20

## PAYING THE BRYCE

## Harper hits grand slam in 9th, Phillies rally past Cubs 7-5

Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper celebrates the team's win over the Chicago Cubs in a baseball game Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in Philadelphia. The Phillies won 7-5 on a grand slam by Harper in the ninth.



# Matsuyama blisters Medinah with 63 for BMW Championship lead

By DOUG FERGUSON

**MEDINAH, Ill. (AP)** — Hideki Matsuyama has never missed the Tour Championship since his first full year on the PGA Tour. He played Friday like he doesn't want the streak to end.

Outside the top 30 in the FedEx Cup for the first time at the BMW Championship, Matsuyama made five birdie putts from 15 feet or longer and broke the course record at Medinah with a 9-under 63 for a one-shot lead going into the weekend.

He started his second round with a 30-foot birdie putt. He ended the round with a 30-foot birdie putt.

The explanation for what went right wasn't that long. "I did make a lot of long putts today, and that was the difference," Matsuyama said through his interpreter.

That was a big difference for Tiger Woods, too. He made only two putts longer than 6 feet, made a pair of bogeys from the bunkers late in the round and had to settle for another 71. Woods, who needs a top 10 to advance to the Tour Championship, was tied for 49th.

"I left quite a few shots out there," Woods said.

Matsuyama was at 12-under 132, one shot ahead of Patrick Cantlay (67) and Tony Finau (66). Justin Thomas made six birdies to offset three bogeys in his round of 69, leaving him two shots behind.



Hideki Matsuyama, of Japan, hits out of the bunker on the ninth hole during the BMW Championship golf tournament in Medinah, Ill., Friday, Aug. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

Cantlay, Finau and Thomas are all assured of being among the top 30 who advance to the Tour Championship next week, where everyone in the field will have a shot at winning the FedEx Cup and the \$15 million prize.

Matsuyama won four times on the Japan Golf Tour as a rookie after he graduated college, and then won the Memorial in 2014 and narrowly got into the FedEx Cup finale at East Lake. He was as high as No. 2 in the world just two years ago

after the U.S. Open. But he has gone two years without winning, and Friday was the first time he has led after any round since his most recent victory at Firestone in the Bridgestone Invitational.

"It's been a long time since I've been in contention," Matsuyama said. "Hopefully, I can play well. I've been struggling for a while this year. Hopefully, that can turn around and I'll have a good weekend."

Cantlay has gone 36 holes at Medinah with only one

bogey, and key to his round was avoid one late. His tee shot on the 320-yard 15th caught enough of the wind that bounded right into the water. He took his penalty dropped, chipped to 8 feet and saved par, got up-and-down on the next hole and then finished with two more good putts, one for birdie and another for par.

"Any time you make a par after hitting the ball in the water it's good," he said. "It gave me some nice momentum to close out the round."

Lucas Glover (69) and Rory Sabbatini (68) were among the group at 9-under 135, both suddenly in range of the top 30.

Woods won the Tour Championship last year, capping a remarkable return from four back surgeries with his first victory in five years. It was an extraordinary afternoon considering where he had been, a moment topped in Georgia some six months later when he won the Masters.

But after he pulled out at Liberty National last week citing a mild oblique strain, he slipped 10 spots to No. 38. And while it was a mild surprise when he showed up at Medinah, he's going the wrong direction in the FedEx Cup.

He isn't ruling out a return to the Tour Championship to defend his title, but he's running out of time and not making enough birdies.

Woods hit it to tap-in range

on the 11th, and then ran off birdies on the 14th and 15th hole to slowly get back into the picture at Medinah. And then he made consecutive bogeys from the bunker, had to settle for another 71 and was right back where he started.

"I'm going to have to have a great weekend and make a lot of birdies and post some rounds in the mid-60s to give myself a chance at it," Woods said. "Putt well and I'll shoot good scores. I haven't done that."

Jordan Spieth also is on the verge of ending a second straight season without a victory, and without a trip to East Lake. He made progress at Liberty National with a tie for sixth, and he needs another finish like that to crack the top 30.

He did not need to chop his way to a double bogey on the par-3 eighth that left him at the bottom of the back. Spieth rallied with five birdies on the back nine, and he believes he has the "firepower" to post two low scores and hope it's enough.

There was a realistic side to him Friday, especially after the double bogey, that his season was over because of how he felt over the ball. Yes, he still has an outside chance. But he sure didn't sound consumed by it.

"I'm far enough out that I'm going to sleep at night not expecting to be there," Spieth said about East Lake. "It's not where I want to live, but it's where I am." □

# Jimenez, Barron share PGA Tour Champions lead

**ENDICOTT, N.Y. (AP)** — Miguel Angel Jimenez birdied three of the final six holes Friday for a 7-under 65 and a share of the first-round lead with Monday qualifier Doug Barron in the PGA Tour Champions' Dick's Sporting Goods Open.

Jimenez had eight birdies and a bogey at En Joie Golf Club. The 55-year-old Spaniard won the Chubb Classic in February in Florida for his seventh senior title.

"It was very nice. I played very solid. I felt very comfortable on the golf course,"

Jimenez said. "That's what you need to do, hit fairways, hit greens and hit it close. I made the putts. Happy with the way I've been managing myself on the golf course." The 50-year-old Barron had seven birdies in a bogey-free round. He's coming off a fifth-place tie in the Senior British Open in his Champions debut. "I've been around this course 32 times in tournament rounds and played however many practice rounds here when I was on tour, so I like the place. It fits my eye," Barron

said. "Just like it reminds me of the two courses I grew up playing at home. So, I've always played good here, I've had some good finishes here."

Marco Dawson and Scott Parel were a stroke back at 66. Kevin Sutherland was another stroke back with David McKenzie and Billy Andrade. Kevin Sutherland shot a 59 in the tournament five years ago.

Senior British Open winner Bernhard Langer shot a 68, playing alongside Charles Schwab Cup leader Scott

McCarron and Senior Players Championship winner Retief Goosen. Langer won at En Joie in 2014.

"You've got to drive it straight here," Langer said. "It's tree-lined, rough and trees everywhere, so you've got to drive it really good, hit some good irons and, hopefully, sink some putts. That's what it takes."

McCarron, the winner two years ago, had a 69. Goosen shot 72. Davis Love III and Jay Haas shot 68, while playing partner Fred Couples had a 70. Couples is

back at En Joie for the first time in 24 years. He won the B.C. Open in 1991 when it was a PGA Tour event. "I just didn't make enough birdies, but I felt OK," Couples said. "I have to play a lot more and practice a lot harder to work my way up these leaderboards again. I have not really played well this whole year, but it's fun to be here."

John Daly had a 71. Defending champion Bart Bryant opened with a 72. He also won the 2013 event. □





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## Ash Barty reaches semifinals in Cincy, Osaka injured

By JOE KAY  
AP Sports Writer

**MASON, Ohio (AP)** — Ashleigh Barty was in the same predicament, trying to dig out from an ugly first set. The Western & Southern Open's top seed found a way to do it again.

Barty reached the semifinals of the tournament for the first time and moved closer to regaining the No. 1 world ranking Friday by beating Maria Sakkari 5-7, 6-2, 6-0. With one more win, she can move into the top spot for the U.S. Open, taking it back from Naomi Osaka.

Osaka had much bigger concerns after dropping out of her semifinal match because of a knee injury.

After splitting sets with Sofia Kenin, Osaka took a timeout early in the third set to have her left knee examined and wrapped. She played only two more points before retiring, sending Kenin into the semifinals for the second straight week.

Last week in Toronto, Kenin knocked off Barty on her way to the semifinals, allowing Osaka to jump ahead of Barty for No. 1. Now they're in position to swap spots again.

Barty is feeling good about her play with the U.S. Open just ahead.

"Still not quite there, but we're getting better and better each match," the French Open champion said. "I think that's the beauty of being able to stay alive in the tournament is to give myself an opportunity to keep getting better. I think I'm still aiming to obviously do very well here, but the big picture is New York in 10 days' time."

She needs some work on first sets, though.

Barty got ahead 5-2 in her opening set Friday and then got sloppy, letting it slip away as Sakkari became more aggressive. It

was the second straight day that Barty rallied after dropping a first set. She fought off a match point during a three-set win over Anett Kontaveit on Thursday, showing poise that she'd need to draw on again a day later.

"There is certainly no panic, where it gets to the stage where I'm kind of overwrought or can't think straight," she said. "I'm still able to, more times than not, have the ability to relax and kind of stay clear and come back to what works."

Barty will face Svetlana Kuznetsova, who reached her first semifinal of the season by beating third-seeded Karolina Pliskova 3-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3.

Kuznetsova is playing only her ninth event after missing the start of the season because of a knee injury. Playing on a hot, humid afternoon, she got treatment on her upper right leg after



Ashleigh Barty, of Australia, serves to Maria Sakkari, of Greece, during the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 16, 2019, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

the second set and twice again during the final one. On the men's side, qualifier Yoshihito Nishioka withdrew because of illness, sending David Goffin into the semifinals. Nishioka had a good tournament showing, beating sixth-seeded Kei Nishikori — a player he called his hero — and Alex De Minaur to reach the quarterfinals. Goffin will face Richard Gasquet, who advanced

with a three-set victory over Roberto Bautista Agut. Gasquet had groin surgery in January and fell to No. 68 in the ATP rankings on July 29, his lowest in nine years. He's back in an ATP Masters 1000 semifinal for the first time since 2013 in Miami. Seven-time champion Roger Federer was upset Thursday, leaving Novak Djokovic as the only high seed left in the bracket. □



# Harper hits grand slam in 9th, Phillies rally past Cubs 7-5

**By The Associated Press**  
**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Bryce Harper blasted a grand slam with one out in the ninth inning, capping a six-run rally that sent the Philadelphia Phillies over the Chicago Cubs 7-5 Thursday night for a three-game sweep. Harper delivered his biggest hit yet in his first season with the Phillies, celebrating while running around the bases and then getting mobbed by teammates at the plate. Cubs starter Yu Darvish struck out 10, silencing Philadelphia's bats for seven innings a night after the Phillies scored 11 runs in former manager Charlie Manuel's debut as hitting coach. But the Phillies rallied against Chicago's bullpen and moved within one game of the Cubs for the second wild-card spot in the NL.

Ranger Suarez (4-1) tossed two scoreless innings to earn the win. Pedro Strop (2-5) took the loss. Kyle Schwarber slammed his 100th career homer and team-high 28th this season, and Anthony Rizzo hit his 22nd homer.

## METS 10, BRAVES 8

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Pete Alonso drove in six runs with five hits, including a three-



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper, left, rounds the bases for his grand slam as he passes Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo during the ninth inning of a baseball game Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in Philadelphia. The Phillies won 7-5.

Associated Press

run homer that helped lead to Julio Teheran's shortest career start, and New York held on to beat Atlanta. Alonso's 39th homer tied Cody Bellinger for the National League rookie record. Bellinger hit 39 homers for the Dodgers in 2017, the same year the Yankees' Aaron Judge set the major league rookie mark with 52. Alonso set career highs for

hits and RBIs. The Mets had a season-high 23 hits. Amed Rosario's career-high five hits included two doubles, two singles and a triple. Wilson Ramos had four hits. Todd Frazier also homered. New York won despite giving up six homers, including three in the ninth. Freddie Freeman and Josh Donaldson each hit his second

homer of the game in the inning and Ronald Acuña Jr. hit a two-run shot. Matt Joyce homered in the fourth. Marcus Stroman (7-11) allowed three runs, two earned, on four hits in 5 1/3 innings. Edwin Díaz earned his 25th save. Teheran (7-8) recorded only four outs while giving up eight hits and six runs.

## REDS 2, CARDINALS 1

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Sonny Gray struck out 10 while pitching five scoreless innings, and Cincinnati held off St. Louis.

Gray, Robert Stephenson, Michael Lorenzen and Raisel Iglesias combined for a two-hitter. Iglesias surrendered Kolten Wong's check-swing RBI double in the ninth before retiring pinch-hitter Matt Wieters to finish his 24th save.

Nick Senzel and Eugenio Suárez each drove in a run for Cincinnati, which stopped a four-game slide. St. Louis had won five in a row to move into a virtual tie with Chicago for the NL Central lead. The Cubs had a chance to move in front again, but they lost 7-5 at Philadelphia on Bryce Harper's game-ending grand slam.

Gray (8-6) walked three and hit a batter while throwing 97 pitches.

Michael Wacha (6-6) extended the St. Louis pitching staff's streak of consecutive scoreless innings to 22 before the Reds pushed across two runs in the fifth.

## MARLINS 13, DODGERS 1

**MIAMI (AP)** — Miami turned the tables on Los Angeles, winning despite giving up four home runs, including Cody Bellinger's 40th. □



Denny Hamlin watches a television monitor as the last car qualifies for the NASCAR Cup Series auto race, Friday, Aug. 16, 2019, at Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn.

Associated Press

## Continued from Page 17

"I feel if it presents itself, we can be a little different and go after stage wins. We

aren't locked in, but I feel good." Martin Truex Jr. qualified third in a Toyota for Gibbs,

while Chip Ganassi Racing had two Chevrolets in the top four as Kurt Busch will be lined up behind teammate Larson at the start of the race.

Aric Almirola, a driver still trying to qualify for the playoffs, was fifth and the highest qualifying Ford driver. He believes he'll have to fight for every position around the .533-mile concrete bullring.

"At this place you have to be aggressive all the time. Dodging lap traffic and cars on restarts and everything," Almirola said. "You have to be on full send all the time and you're right on the edge of out of control, and everything happens so fast that sometimes that's what jumps up and bites you is that things happen so fast."

Chase Elliott qualified sixth

in a Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports, followed by the surprise of the session in Matt DiBenedetto, who was seventh for Leavine Family Racing just days after the team informed him he won't be back for a second season in 2020.

DiBenedetto was admittedly devastated by the news, said he has "no irons in the fire" for 2020 with the sudden decision he's being released, and the news came during the best season of his career. He's a career-best 23rd in the standings but Leavine is aligned with Joe Gibbs Racing, and Gibbs has a logjam of signed drivers and not enough Cup seats. Christopher Bell is expected to be promoted from the Xfinity Series into DiBenedetto's seat.

"Sports suck," Hamlin said

about DiBenedetto's plight. DiBenedetto understood the Gibbs situation all season, but hoped for a different outcome.

"I don't want to say I was blindsided, I was just trying to let my performance behind the wheel do the talking and hope that would prevail over everything but sometimes performance isn't everything," he said. "I hate it is coming to an end, but my entire career has been devastation at the time, but it's always been a better door opening. Every single time since I was literally a kid, it's been a tough journey and I'm accustomed to that." Kevin Harvick, Erik Jones and Alex Bowman rounded out the top 10. Kyle Busch, an eight-time winner at Bristol, qualified an uncharacteristically poor 31st. □





In this Nov. 11, 2018, file photo, New England Patriots wide receiver Josh Gordon (10) is defended by Tennessee Titans cornerback Adoree' Jackson (25) in the first half of an NFL football game in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

## NFL conditionally reinstates Patriots WR Josh Gordon

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
AP Sports Writer

**BOSTON (AP)** — Josh Gordon's winding career has included several second chances following a trail of multiple drug suspensions that cast doubt whether the talented but troubled playmaker would ever get on an NFL field again. He's getting yet another opportunity.

The NFL conditionally reinstated the Patriots wide receiver on Friday.

Commissioner Roger Goodell notified Gordon that on Sunday, Gordon can rejoin the team for meetings and conditioning and individual workouts. After that, according to a league statement, "Subject to appropriate progress on clinical care and other arrangements, he will be permitted to participate in team activities, including practice."

But Gordon is barred from next Thursday's game because of a lack of sufficient conditioning and practice time.

Gordon had been suspended indefinitely since December 2018 for violations of the league's substance abuse policy.

The Patriots have stayed mostly mum this preseason about the potential of Gordon rejoining the team, with coach Bill Belichick

saying earlier this month, "We don't have anything to do with Josh Gordon. He's suspended. You need to talk to the league. We have no control over Josh Gordon."

Now they will.

Gordon has been suspended several times by the NFL for violations of its drug policies since being drafted by the Cleveland Browns in 2012, and missed the entire 2015 and 2016 seasons.

After being reinstated in 2017, Gordon revealed in an interview with GQ magazine that he drank or used marijuana before games. "Probably every game of my career," he said.

Gordon also said in a 2017 mini-documentary on Uninterrupted.com that he took Xanax, cocaine, marijuana and other narcotics. Now he'll return to a Patriots environment in which he was mostly insulated last season and even flourished in their highly disciplined culture.

Gordon's outlook certainly improved last season after a September trade when the Browns felt it was time to cut ties. He had 40 receptions for 720 yards and three touchdowns with the Patriots, five years removed from an All-Pro season in 2013 with 87 catches for 1,646 yards and nine touchdowns. □



Cleveland Indians' Jose Ramirez watches his grand slam during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the New York Yankees on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

## Ramírez, Santana power Indians to 7 HRs in 19-5 rout vs Yankees

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jose Ramirez hit two early homers, including his first career grand slam in a seven-run opening inning, and Cleveland pummeled New York. Carlos Santana also launched two home runs as the Yankees matched a franchise record by serving up seven. Greg Allen and Santana went back-to-back in a five-run eighth against rookie designated hitter Mike Ford, a former Ivy League pitcher and player of the year at Princeton.

Ramirez and Jason Kipnis smacked consecutive homers off ineffective opener Chad Green (2-4).

Every starter for Cleveland finished with at least two of the team's 24 hits.

Adam Plutko (5-3) was handed a 7-0 cushion before throwing a pitch and went six innings to beat the Yankees for the second time this season.

Didi Gregorius, Gary Sánchez and Gleyber Torres homered for New York.

**MARINERS 7, TIGERS 2**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Dylan Moore homered and Kyle Seager drove in three runs in Seattle's win over Detroit. Mallex Smith stole two bases, giving him 34, the most in the majors. The Mariners won two of three after losing eight of their previous nine.

Detroit finished 4-7 on its 11-game homestand to fall to 17-43 at home. The Tigers need to win five of their last 21 games at Comerica Park to avoid becoming the first team to lose 60 times at home.

Tommy Milone (2-7) allowed two runs and six hits in four innings.

Tigers starter Spencer Turnbull (3-11) allowed three runs and six hits in five innings. Turnbull struck out seven batters in the first three innings, but only retired the side in order in the first. The Mariners put two runners on in the second and scored three runs in the third.

**TWINS 13, RANGERS 6**

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — Luis Arraez hit the first of three more homers by Minnesota in a win over Texas. Miguel Sanó and Eddie Rosario also went deep for Minnesota (73-48), which maintained a half-game lead over Cleveland for the AL Central lead. Marwin Gonzalez had a pair of RBI singles among his four hits. Michael Pineda (8-5) struck out six with one walk while allowing three runs and six hits over five innings. He threw 55 of 86 pitches for strikes in his first start since Aug. 1. Drew Smeltzer threw the final four innings for his first save.

Willie Calhoun and Hunter

Pence homered for the Rangers.

Texas rookie starter Pedro Payano (1-2) allowed eight runs — five of them earned — in 3 1/3 innings, striking out three and walking three.

**ANGELS 8, WHITE SOX 7**

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — Mike Trout went 4 for 4, scored four runs and hit his AL-leading 40th homer, and Andrew Heaney pitched seven innings of four-hit ball in Los Angeles' victory over Chicago.

Trout put a solo shot off Reynaldo Lopez (7-10) into the fake rock pile beyond center field in the third inning, keeping pace with the Dodgers' Cody Bellinger for the overall major league homers lead and reaching another franchise milestone.

The two-time AL MVP became the fastest player to 40 homers in Angels history and the fifth-fastest in the majors in this century by reaching the mark in 123 games — 13 fewer than Troy Glaus needed for the Halos in 2000. José Abreu hit two homers for the White Sox. Justin Upton hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs, David Fletcher hit a tiebreaking two-run single and Hansel Robles earned his 17th save as the Angels earned their fourth win in six games. □



# Jackson looks sharp, Rodgers sits as Ravens beat Packers

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — Lamar Jackson directed two scoring drives during a limited appearance, had an impressive touchdown run erased by a penalty and sparked the Baltimore Ravens to a 26-13 victory over the Green Bay Packers, who played Thursday night without quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

Rodgers developed back stiffness and was a late scratch, a move the team labeled as a "precaution." After being held out of Green Bay's first preseason game against Houston, the seven-time Pro Bowl star was slated to start for the first time under rookie head coach Matt LaFleur.

Instead, DeShone Kizer, Tim Boyle and Manny Wilkins struggled against a defense that last year was ranked No. 1 in the NFL.

Coming off a rookie season in which he didn't start until mid-November, Jackson is seeking to master a new playbook devised by first-year coordinator Greg Roman. Jackson started and played three series last week in a 29-0 rout of Jacksonville. This time, the 2016 Heisman Trophy winner stuck around for two possessions, both of which ended with field goals. He completed 6 of 10 passes for 58 yards and ran twice for 14 yards.

The Ravens have won 15 straight preseason games, 34 of the last 43 and 19 of the last 22 at home.

## JETS 22, FALCONS 10

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Matt Ryan and Sam Darnold both appear ready for the regular season.

Ryan looked sharp in his preseason debut for Atlanta, completing nine straight passes, and Darnold led New York on another scoring drive.

After sitting out the first two exhibition games, Ryan played most of the first half. He completed 10 of 14 passes for 118 yards, a performance that was even more impressive considering Brian Hill and Justin Hardy dropped back-to-back passes in the back of the end zone that should have been touchdowns, spark-



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson looks to pass against the Green Bay Packers during the first half of a NFL football preseason game, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

ing boos from the meager crowd.

The Jets are certainly pleased with Darnold, who followed up a marvelous drive in the preseason opener by completing 5 of 7 passes for 46 yards. He guided New York on a 66-yard touchdown drive to start the game, capped by Ty Montgomery's 1-yard scoring run.

Le'Veon Bell sat out again for the Jets. He could make his New York debut next week.

Follow Paul Newberry on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963](https://twitter.com/pnewberry1963). His work can be found at <https://apnews.com>

## EAGLES 24, JAGUARS 10

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)** — Philadelphia third-string quarterback Cody Kessler was knocked out of the team's win on the opening drive. Defensive end Datone Jones came unblocked off the edge and walloped Kessler in the back.

Kessler was escorted to the sideline, evaluated for a head injury in the locker

room and then placed in the concussion protocol. The team already was without backup Nate Sudfeld, who broke his left wrist in the team's preseason opener against Tennessee. Starter Carson Wentz rested for the second straight game. He watched from the sideline in uniform, but without pads and a helmet.

Rookie Clayton Thorson, the only other QB on the roster, played three-plus quarters and completed a 38-yard touchdown pass to former college quarterback and Alliance of American Football receiver Greg Ward on fourth down in the second quarter.

Thorson beat the blitz by lofting a deep ball toward the left sideline. Ward was a couple of steps behind safety C.J. Reavis, made an acrobatic catch and then outran two defenders to the end zone. It was another big play in the past three weeks for the 5-foot-11 wideout who threw for 8,704 yards and accounted for 91 touchdowns in four years at Houston.

The Eagles rested tight end Zach Ertz, defensive tackle Tim Jernigan, running back Darren Sproles, center Jason Kelce, receivers DeSean Jackson and Nelson Agholor and others.

The Jaguars sat 31 guys, including quarterback Nick Foles, cornerback Jalen Ramsey, running back Leonard Fournette, linebacker Myles Jack and defensive ends Yannick Ngakoue and Calais Campbell.

## BENGALS 23, REDSKINS 13

**LANDOVER, Md. (AP)** — Washington first-round pick Dwayne Haskins made strong throws and his share of mistakes, and fellow rookie Ryan Finley continued to make his case to be Cincinnati's backup quarterback.

Haskins threw a 55-yard TD pass to camp standout Robert Davis and was 7 of 14 for 114 yards with a fumble. The 15th overall pick took two sacks but showed poise under pressure and was more effective than veteran Case Keenum, who played the first three drives and was 3 of 7 for 52

yards.

Keenum, Haskins and long-time backup Colt McCoy are competing to be the Redskins' Week 1 starter. McCoy has yet to play in the preseason while he deals with lingering pain from a broken leg last year. After already passing Jeff Driskell on Cincinnati's depth chart, Finley again showed why he's now the favorite to back up Andy Dalton. The fourth-round pick out of N.C. State completed his first nine passes and was 20 of 26 for 150 yards with two TD passes. The first six plays of the game featured seven flags, and the penalty parade continued all night. The Bengals and Redskins combined for 22 penalties that added up to 195 yards.

## RAIDERS 33, CARDINALS 26

**GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)** — Kyler Murray's second outing as an NFL quarterback didn't go nearly as well as his first, and the Raiders moved the ball with ease on the Cardinals' top defensive units.

Murray, the first overall pick in this year's NFL draft who looked sharp in his debut last Thursday against the Los Angeles Chargers, finished 3 of 8 for 12 yards. He also ran once for 4 yards, and the Cardinals went three-and-out on two of his four series.

Raiders backup Mike Glennon completed 11 of 14 passes for 175 yards and a pair of touchdowns, and the Oakland defense tackled Murray in the end zone for a safety to lead the Raiders to their second preseason win.

Derek Carr, the Raiders' No. 1 quarterback, played one series and led a touchdown drive, going 2 for 2 for 40 yards in his preseason debut. Carr threw 13 yards to Ryan Grant for a touchdown on the game's opening drive, and former Cardinal Glennon picked up where Carr left off.

Raiders star wide receiver Antonio Brown came out for pregame warmups in full uniform and pads — and a helmet — and caught passes. He didn't play in the game. □





Nick Kyrgios, of Australia, falls to the court as he reacts after defeating Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, in a final match at the Citi Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

## Nick Kyrgios fined more than \$100,000 for vulgar conduct

By The Associated Press  
MASON, Ohio (AP) — Nick Kyrgios was fined \$113,000 by the ATP for expletive-filled outbursts in which he smashed rackets, insulted a chair umpire and refused to get ready to return serve during a second-round match at the Western & Southern Open.

The tour announced the penalties Thursday, a day after Kyrgios berated chair umpire Fergus Murphy and left the court to break two rackets during a 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-2 loss to Karen Khachanov.

The ATP listed a breakdown of eight fines ranging from \$3,000 to \$20,000 each for violations such as unsportsmanlike conduct, verbal abuse and audible obscenity.

The tour also said it is "looking further into what happened during and immediately after the match" to determine whether additional fines or a suspension is warranted.

Kyrgios is a 24-year-old Australian who is ranked 27th this week. He is a volatile sort

who repeatedly has gotten in trouble for on-court actions. He was kicked out of the Italian Open in May after throwing a chair and being suspended by the ATP in 2016 for not trying to win and insulting fans during the Shanghai Masters. This month, Kyrgios won the Citi Open title in Washington and said he had turned a page in his professional and personal lives.

In the last match on center court Wednesday night, he was back to his old form. During a change-over in the second set, he yelled from his chair: "The worst ref in the game, hands down. He then vulgarly insisted the umpire does something 'stupid' every time he plays.

Early in the third set, he took two rackets to the tunnel that leads to the locker room, smashed them on the ground and returned to the court.

Warned that he needed to get ready to return Khachanov's serve, he took a new racket to the baseline and stood taping the handle instead of getting in position to play.

"He can serve the ball," Kyrgios said as he casually wrapped the handle. "I'm ready. I'm here. Serve it." Unsure what to do, Khachanov held off until Kyrgios was ready. Then he finished off the third set, and Kyrgios offered another expletive as he left the court. □



In this May 9, 2019, file photo, Joe Tsai speaks to reporters during a news conference before a WNBA exhibition basketball game between the New York Liberty and China in New York.

Associated Press

## AP sources: Alibaba exec to buy Nets, arena for \$3.4 billion

By BRIAN MAHONEY  
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In a record sale for a U.S. sports franchise, the co-founder of Alibaba agreed to buy the remaining 51 percent of the Brooklyn Nets and Barclays Center for about \$3.4 billion, two people with knowledge of the details said Friday.

Joe Tsai already had purchased 49 percent of the team from Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov in 2018, with the option to become controlling owner in 2021.

Instead, he pushed up that timeline for full ownership of a team on the rise after signing superstars Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving in July. Terms were not disclosed, but those familiar with the matter told The Associated Press that Tsai is paying about \$2.35 billion for the Nets and nearly \$1 billion in a separate transaction for the arena. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreements are not complete.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of September and is subject to approval by the NBA's Board of Governors.

It will surpass the \$2.2 billion that Tilman Fertitta paid for the NBA's Houston Rockets, and that David Tepper

spent for the NFL's Carolina Panthers.

Tsai is the executive vice chairman of the Alibaba Group, the Chinese e-commerce giant. He already had purchased the WNBA's New York Liberty.

Prokhorov became the NBA's first non-North American owner in 2010 and oversaw the Nets' move from New Jersey to Brooklyn two years later. He spent big in the first couple years after the move in a quest to chase a championship, but the team soon became one of the worst in the NBA before rallying to return to the playoffs last season.

He boasted of trying to win a championship within five years of his ownership, rapidly going through players and coaches in the first few years in Brooklyn. But he spent less time around the team in recent years while focusing on his interests in Russia — which at one point included a campaign for president of the Russian Federation — and remained in the background after hiring Sean Marks as the team's general manager in 2016.

"It has been an honor and a joy to open Barclays Center, bring the Nets to Brooklyn, and watch them grow strong roots in the community while cultivating global

appeal," Prokhorov said in a statement. "The team is in a better place today than ever before and I know that Joe will build on that success, while continuing to deliver the guest experience at Barclays Center that our fans, employees, and colleagues in the industry enjoy."

Prokhorov had invested \$200 million and made funding commitments to acquire 80 percent of the team and 45 percent of the arena project, after the team's planned move across the Hudson River had repeatedly stalled. He later bought the remainder of the arena, which quickly became a popular attraction for concerts, boxing and college basketball, as well as the home of the New York Islanders.

Tsai, a native of Taiwan, is positioned to take full control of the team by the time the Nets head to China to play two exhibition games against the Los Angeles Lakers in October. That comes at the start of a season of renewed excitement for the Nets, who just three seasons ago won an NBA-worst 20 games but are set to make a big move up the standings after landing two of the best players on the market when free agency opened. □

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# Gov't wants a new 911-like number just for suicide hotline

By TALI ARBEL

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — With suicides on the rise, the U.S. government wants to make the national crisis hotline easier to reach.

Once implemented, people will just need to dial 988 to seek help. Currently, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline uses a 10-digit number, 800-273-TALK (8255). Callers are routed to one of 163 crisis centers, where counselors answered 2.2 million calls last year.

A law passed last year required the Federal Communications Commission to study assigning a three-digit number for suicide prevention, like 911 for emergencies or 311 for city services. The FCC said in a Wednesday report that there is "overwhelming support" for a three-digit number because it would be easier for distressed people to get help.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said he intends to start the months-long process to make that happen.

Anything that makes it easier for people having suicidal thoughts — and their loved ones — to reach out for assistance is good, said



In this Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019, photo, a man uses a cell phone in New Orleans. With suicides on the rise, the government wants to make the national crisis hotline easier to reach.

Associated Press

Dr. Lynn Bufka, an associate executive director at the American Psychological Association. "There's no way most of them are going to remember the 800 numbers. 988 makes it much easier to remember." The government's action comes as suicide rates have increased across the U.S. over the past two decades, and dramatically so — by more than 30% — in half of U.S. states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There were 45,000 deaths in 2016.

The new, shorter number would likely lead to more calls, which in turn would mean more expenses for crisis centers already struggling to keep up. If the number of calls to the hotline doubled, centers would need an extra \$50 million a year to handle the increase, the FCC said, citing the federal agency that funds the hotline, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. "These kinds of hotlines need to be well supported and well-funded," Bufka said. □



In this May 1, 2019, file photo, a person walks past a Google sign in San Francisco.

## Google employees call for pledge not to work with ICE

BY RACHEL LERMAN

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** —

Hundreds of Google employees are calling on the company to pledge it won't work with U.S. Customs and Border Protection or Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It's the latest in a year full of political and social push-back from the tech giant's workforce.

A group of employees called Googlers for Human Rights posted a public petition urging the company not to bid on a cloud computing contract for CBP, the federal agency that oversees law enforcement for the country's borders. Bids for the contract were due Aug. 1. It is not clear if

Google expressed interest. The company did not return a request for comment.

More than 800 Google employees had signed the petition by Friday morning. Citing a "system of abuse" and "malign neglect" by the agencies, the petition demands that Google not provide any technical services to CBP, ICE or the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which provides services for refugees, until the agencies "stop engaging in human rights abuses."

"In working with CBP, ICE, or ORR, Google would be trading its integrity for a bit of profit, and joining a shameful lineage," the organizers wrote. □



In this Aug. 8, 2019 photo, Jeff Pietro, left, and Kris Newhall, center, both of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts, help move the anchoring system for a microphone, as it is being lowered over the side of the ship in the Santa Barbara Channel off Southern California.

Associated Press

**SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)**

— Scientists have installed an underwater sound system they hope will reduce collisions between whales and ships in the Santa Barbara Channel off Southern

California.

A listening station on the channel floor is able to capture whale calls as far away as 30 miles (48 kilometers), the Los Angeles Times reported Friday. That device

## California sound system tries to keep whales and ships apart

is connected by cable to a buoy floating above that transmits data by satellite to scientists on shore.

From there, captains can be alerted to slow their ships down or reroute.

It's the latest attempt to prevent ships from running into whales in the channel, where cargo vessels in and out of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach cross feeding grounds of endangered blue, fin and humpback whales.

"The Santa Barbara Channel is like a buffet for a lot of whales," said Douglas McCauley, director of the Benioff Ocean Initiative at University of California, San-

ta Barbara, which is sponsoring the \$1.5 million project. "That hotspot happens to be right on the marine highway, kind of like the offshore version of the 101 (freeway) that connects Santa Barbara to the ports of LA/Long Beach."

In 2007, five blue whales were found dead in the channel. Efforts to reduce deaths have included shifting the ship traffic lanes and offering financial incentives to companies that follow the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's request that ships slow down during whale season.

It hasn't been enough. In

2018, 11 whales in California died in ship collisions, the highest number NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has on record and a surge from the average 3.8 annual deaths over the previous five years. This year, at least 11 whales are known to have died, according to the Times.

Deaths often go unreported because whales typically sink when they die and are hit in remote areas. A 2017 study found that ship strikes kill more than 80 whales off the West Coast annually.

The sound system is being tested and will fully launch in early 2020. □



# Worried about a recession? Protect yourself but don't panic

By **SARAH SKIDMORE SELL**  
AP Personal Finance Writer

If the threat of a recession gives you pause when it comes to your personal finances, remember now is a time to prepare, not panic. Worries about the economy increased this week when a fairly reliable recession warning emerged from the bond market. But without a crystal ball, it remains unclear when a recession might hit. Still, financial experts say people should consider taking certain steps that are beneficial in any economy but would aid households greatly in a downturn.

## DON'T PANIC

The longstanding advice remains — do not panic and stay the course on your financial plan.

It is sage advice, said Dan Keady, chief financial planning strategist at TIAA, but it also goes against the grain for many people. "It's hard just to do nothing," he said. "The best investment strategy is a long-term one. If you buy and sell your investments frequently, you'll more likely than not buy and sell based on emotion



In this Aug. 7, 2019, photo shoppers ride an escalator inside the Glendale Galleria in Glendale, Calif.

Associated Press

— panic or excitement."

If you simply cannot sit still, use this pressure as an impetus to check your plan. Are your goals the same? Are your investments allocated where you want them? It makes sense to periodically rebalance your portfolio to ensure your investments have not become too

heavily weighted in one segment or another, particularly after a long stock market run-up like the one in recent years.

Say, for example, you started with 60% of your nest egg in stocks and 40% in bonds. The stock portion could have easily jumped to 70% thanks to strong

gains in technology sector. Whatever the portion of your portfolio is in stocks, remember that it can lose 10% or 20% of its value regularly as recessions come and go. That's the price investors have paid historically for the stronger long-term returns of stocks versus bonds.

While it may be difficult, fight the urge to readjust your portfolio solely based on market conditions. People who sold during the last recession, for example, likely suffered a loss and then either missed out on major stock market gains in subsequent years or had to pay the price to jump back in.

If you originally designed your portfolio to match your long-term investment goals and risk tolerance, stay true to it, Keady said. If you don't think you can be objective, ask a professional for help.

Try not to get too tied up in the ups and downs of the stock market too. Even those without money in the market — about half of all U.S. households — might be tempted to see the market's move as a sign of the times even though it can have little impact on their direct financial wealth.

And remember a recession is a natural part of a market cycle, said Lauren Anastasio, a certified financial planner at SoFi.

"The advice is don't panic," Anastasio said. □

# U.S. stocks end turbulent week with broad gains

By **STAN CHOE** and **ALEX VEIGA**

AP Business Writers

You're not the only one confused about where the economy is headed. Just look at the stock market, where perplexed investors have been sending stocks on a wild ride in August. And there could be plenty more where that came from. Two notoriously volatile months for stocks lie just ahead.

Stocks around the world jumped Friday to cap another tumultuous week. Investors have been frantically trying to rejigger their predictions about whether President Donald Trump's trade war and slowing economies around the world will drag the United States into a recession. In

the U.S., the result was a week where the Dow Jones Industrial Average had four days where it rose or fell by more than 300 points — with an 800-point drop thrown into the mix.

On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 1.4%. The Dow climbed 1.2% and the Nasdaq picked up 1.7%. But each index still finished with a third-straight weekly decline.

Stocks, bonds and other investments heaved up and down throughout the week, with worries hitting a crescendo on Wednesday when a fairly reliable warning signal of recession flipped on in the U.S. Treasury market.

Friday marked the seventh time in the last 10 days that the S&P 500 swung by at least 1%, something that

hasn't happened since the end of 2018, the last time investors were getting worried about a possible recession. At that time, they were concerned about rising interest rates, along with the trade war.

Don't expect the volatility to go away anytime soon, analysts say. No one knows when Trump's trade war will find a resolution, nor whether all the uncertainty it's created will push enough businesses and shoppers to hold off on spending and cause a recession. Some investors are digging in for trade tensions to last through the 2020 election. "We're also heading into a tough season for the market," said Emily Roland, co-chief investment strategist at John Hancock Invest-



Traders John Romolo, left, and George Ettinger work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Aug. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

ment Management. "September and October tend to be the most volatile of the year for markets. We've been talking to investors for that reason to look for areas to prune risk within a portfolio."

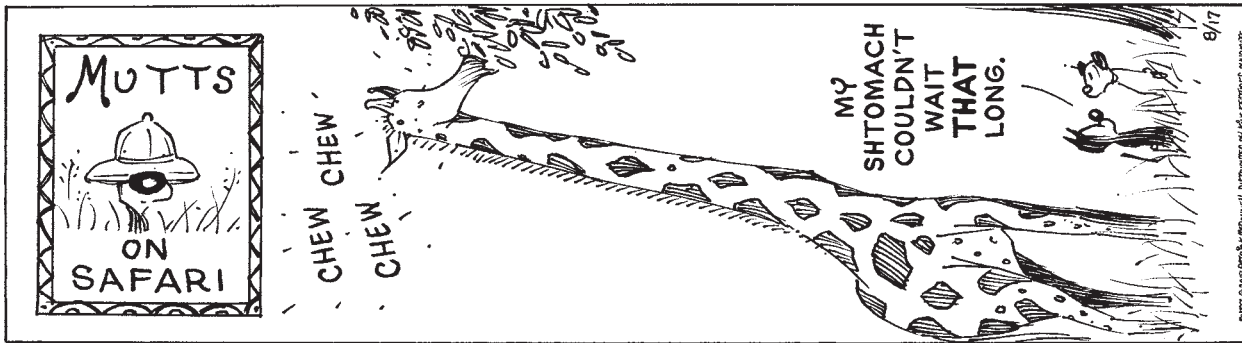
The S&P 500 has lost an average of 1.1% in September over the last 20 years, making it the worst-performing month of the year. October's track record is better, but it includes the worst

monthly performance in that stretch, a nearly 17% drop in 2008.

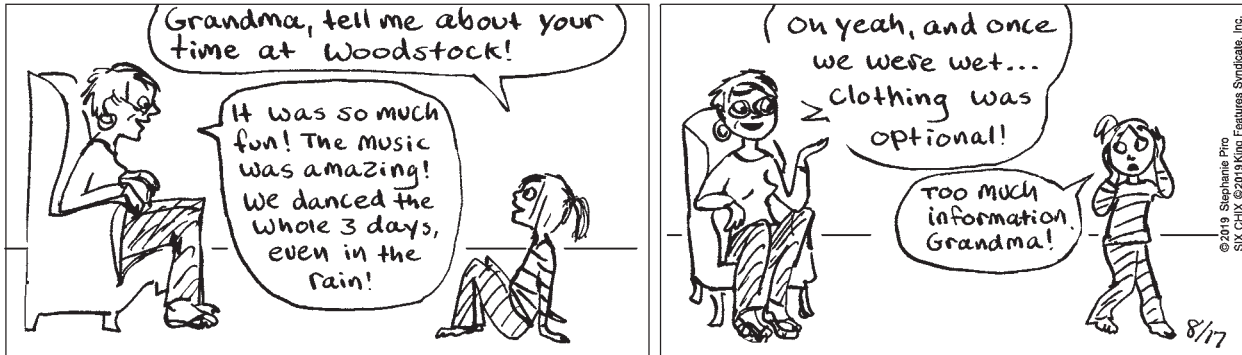
But Roland and other professional investors also caution that this kind of turmoil is actually normal for the market, when looking at it from a very long-term point of view. The U.S. stock market historically has had such bursts of tightly packed volatile days, interspersed between longer periods of calm. □



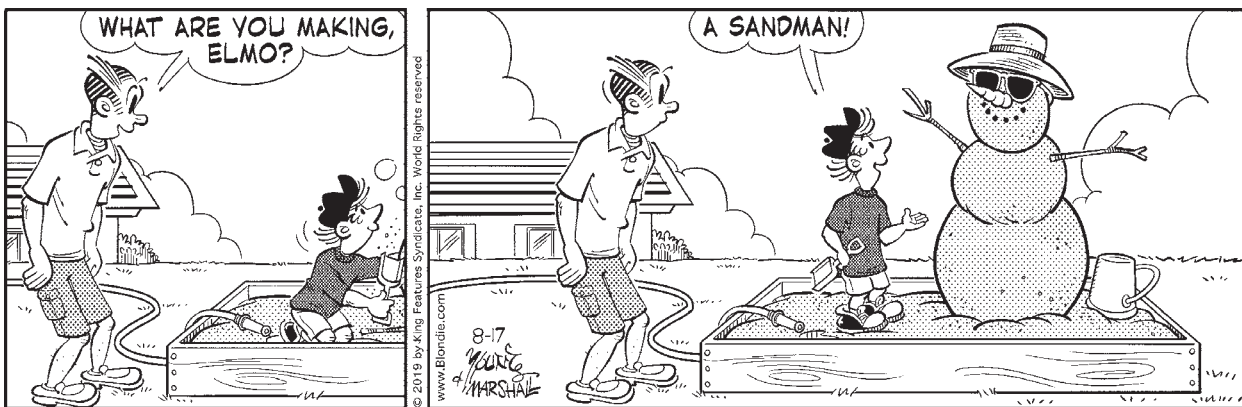
**Mutts**



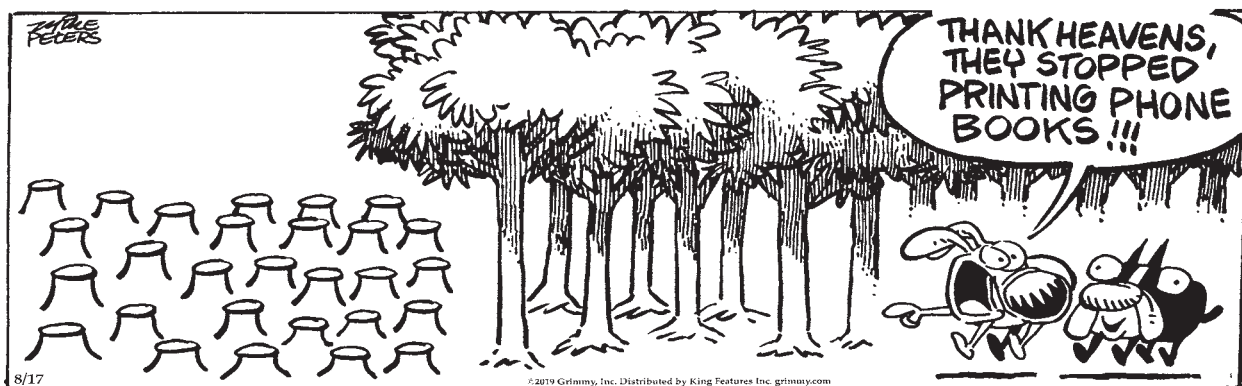
**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



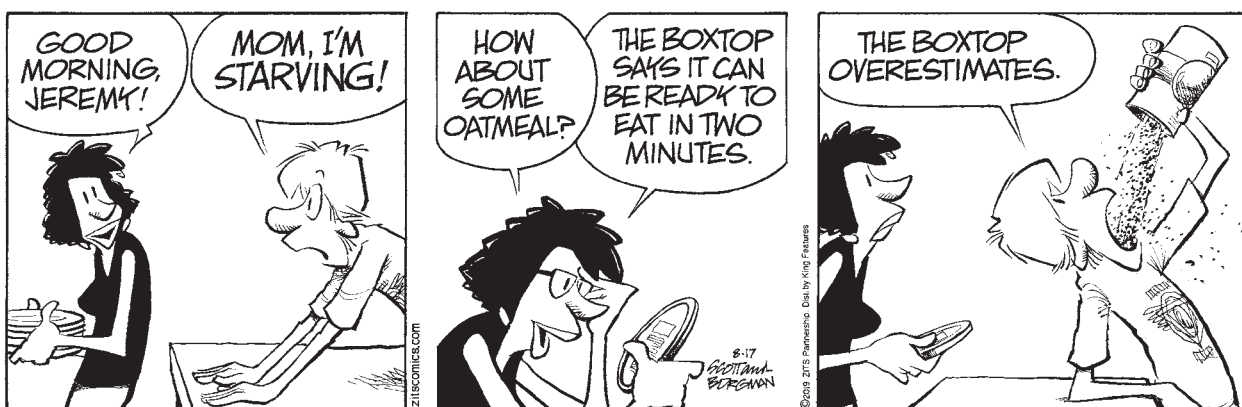
**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

			9		3			
		6				8		
	1	9				6	2	
7			5		6			4
8			3		7			1
	5	2				1	4	
		4				3		
			2		8			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/17

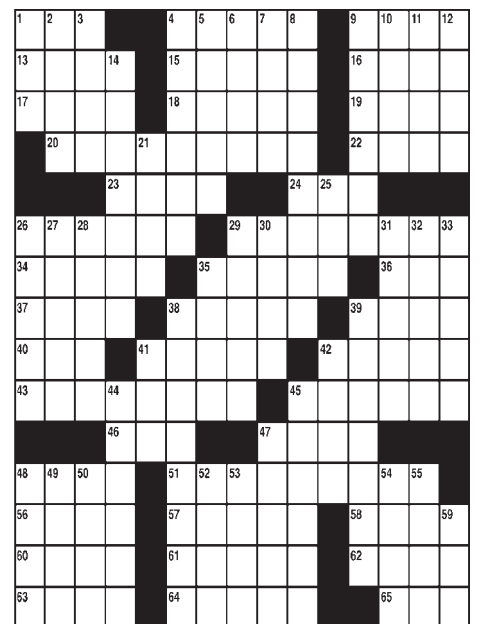
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	4	9	7	6	8	5	1	2
8	6	5	9	2	1	4	3	7
1	7	2	5	3	4	6	8	9
5	8	4	2	7	6	3	9	1
9	2	1	8	5	3	7	4	6
7	3	6	1	4	9	2	5	8
6	1	3	4	8	2	9	7	5
4	5	8	6	9	7	1	2	3
2	9	7	3	1	5	8	6	4

**ACROSS**

- 1 Tenth month
- 4 Gemstones
- 9 Book jacket part
- 13 Deafening
- 15 Nonconformist
- 16 Thick cord
- 17 Great \_\_; tall dog
- 18 Major airline
- 19 Remove the lid from
- 20 Bland
- 22 Bank teller's call
- 23 Black-eyed \_\_
- 24 Third word in "Old MacDonald"
- 26 Soap opera
- 29 Like a careless job
- 34 Group under a teacher
- 35 Heckle
- 36 Actress Larter
- 37 Asian staple
- 38 "There's no such \_\_ as a free lunch"



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/17/19

Friday's Puzzle Solved

SOB	RACKS	ANDY
MEMO	ALOES	SERE
BANG	CONGESTION	
ALI	FINES	HELPS
SLING	FOR	
LACING	TEENSY	
ALIEN	PLEAS	TUB
PIES	GIANT	MAKE
SAN	CREST	WAGON
STARED	REIGNS	
LAW	DIANE	
STEMS	STINK	REP
POLOSHIRTS	LIAR	
ARMS	ELITE	ONCE
NEST	STOOD	UGH

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8/17/19

**DOWN**

- 1 Obsolete
- 2 Winter garment
- 3 Bluefin, for one

- 4 Traumatic experience
- 5 Rinds
- 6 Suffix for punish or perish
- 7 "Why don't we?"
- 8 Hockey no-no
- 9 Fern parts
- 10 Bound along
- 11 Peak
- 12 \_\_-up; like repressed anger
- 14 Hate
- 21 Pekoe & oolong
- 25 Well-suited
- 26 Leftover bit
- 27 Upper crust
- 28 Marathons
- 29 Actress Eva Marie \_\_
- 30 Respirator
- 31 Drags
- 32 Small fruit
- 33 Eats
- 35 That's partner
- 38 Hold dear
- 39 Most impulsive
- 41 High chair accessory
- 42 Shanties
- 44 Actor Don \_\_
- 45 Woods
- 47 Slightly more than a yard
- 48 Early man
- 49 Gray wolf
- 50 Give the cold shoulder to
- 52 Brown or Fordham: abbr.
- 53 \_\_ up; amass
- 54 Unable to hear
- 55 Title
- 59 \_\_ on; watch from hiding





This Aug. 4, 2015 file photo, flowers bloom in front of the Salt Lake Temple, at Temple Square, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

## Java still a no-no for Mormons despite fancy coffee names

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has issued a warning to members that coffee is prohibited no matter how fancy the name, that vaping is banned despite the alluring flavors and that marijuana is outlawed unless prescribed by "competent" doctors.

The new guidance in the August issue of a church youth magazine does not include fundamental changes to the religion's strict health code, but the clarifications are significant and seem to reflect growing concern about young Latter-day Saints' adherence to the rules.

The article says it aims to clear up issues that could be confusing for young people within the religion's "Word of Wisdom," a set of rules about what foods and drinks are good for members and what substances they should avoid.

The rules prohibit alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and coffee and tea. They are based on what church members believe was a revelation from God to founder Joseph Smith in 1833. The faith's rejection of coffee has long generated curiosity and more than a few jokes, including a scene in the biting satirical Broadway musical called "The Book of Mormon" where dancing cups of coffee appear in a mis-

sionary's nightmare.

The new instructions about coffee make clear that there's no gray area allowing coffee-infused drinks and allude to the wide variety that could tempt members of the faith widely known as the Mormon church.

"The word coffee isn't always in the name of coffee drinks. So, before you try what you think is just some new milkshake flavor, here are a couple of rules of thumb: One, if you're in a coffee shop (or any other shop that's well-known for its coffee), the drink you're ordering probably has coffee in it, so either never buy drinks at coffee shops or always ask if there's cof-

fee in it," the article said. "Two, drinks with names that include cafe or caffe, mocha, latte, espresso, or anything ending in -ccino usually have coffee in them and are against the Word of Wisdom."

As coffee shops have become common in the United States, more young church members feel comfortable going to places like Starbucks and drinking iced coffee, said Patrick Mason, a church member and religious scholar who is the Arrington Chair of Mormon History and Culture at Utah State University. For past generations, just entering coffee shops was considered taboo, he said. □



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# Flooded Mississippi a threat as hurricane season heats up

By JEFF MARTIN and JANET McCONNAUGHEY

Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — The river that drains much of the flood-soaked United States is still running higher than normal, menacing New Orleans in multiple ways just as the hurricane season intensifies.

For months now, a massive volume of water has been pushing against the levees keeping a city mostly below sea level from being inundated. The Mississippi River ran past New Orleans at more than 11 feet (3.4 meters) above sea level for a record 292 days, dropping below that height only Monday.

"The big threat is water getting through or underneath," said Nicholas Pinter, an expert on river dynamics and flood risks who's studied levee breaches across the nation. "The longer the duration, the greater the threat."

Locals walked up levees from Baton Rouge to New Orleans to see the river for themselves as Tropical Storm Barry briefly menaced Louisiana last month, but the real damage runs underneath, experts say: All that rushing floodwater can scour levees along their foundations, causing damage in places that can't easily be seen.

"That ultimately could undermine the levee as well and cause a breach or a failure," said Cassandra Rutherford, assistant professor of geotechnical engineering at Iowa State University.

The federal agency that maintains the levees is aware of the risks. But Ricky Boyett, spokesman for the New Orleans office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the corps is confident that South Louisiana river levees are in great condition, with improvements made since 2011.



In this May 10, 2019 file photo, workers open bays of the Bonnet Carre Spillway, to divert rising water from the Mississippi River to Lake Pontchartrain, upriver from New Orleans, in Norco, La.

Associated Press

"If there's a silver lining going into hurricane season with the river this high for this long, we're entering the hurricane season having done 200 inspections of the levee since February," Boyett said.

Inspectors were looking for parked barges, stuck debris or other potential trouble, such as tire ruts or damage from feral hogs on grassy surfaces. They also looked for water seeping through, and for sand boils — spots where water tunneling below a levee seems to bubble out of the ground. Concrete mats armor underwater areas likely to be eaten away by the river's current, Boyett said. Sand boils get ringed with sandbags until the water pressure on both sides equalizes, stopping the flow. And because some permanent repairs can't be made during high water, dangerous seepage gets stopgap coverage: About 63,000 large sandbags have been used since March on one 300-foot-long (91.5-meter-long) seepage area upriver of Baton Rouge, he said.

Even so, experts who study flowing water say there's a risk the river could rise above the tops of some levees in the New Orleans area, if a hurricane pushes enough storm surge up the swollen river. The city's levees held the river back in the great flood of 1927 and haven't been topped since then, Boyett said. A Category 4 hurricane striking the Louisiana coastline can produce a 20-foot (6.1-meter) storm surge, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says. However, that surge's size at New Orleans, more than 100 winding river miles up from the coast, would be reduced by the Big Muddy's push seaward. The levees range in height from 20 to 25 feet (6 to 7.5 meters). While river levels are finally falling, the National Weather Service projects the Mississippi will remain above average at New Orleans as hurricane season heats up.

"We really have a heightened concern this year," said Scott Hagen, of Louisiana State University's Center for Coastal Resiliency.

For most of the past three decades, the Mississippi has run about 3 to 5 feet (1 to 1.5 meters) high in mid-August at New Orleans' Carrollton gauge. The last time it was this high was 11.4 feet (3.5 meters) in August 2015, a year when no significant tropical weather reached Louisiana's coast. It was 12.2 feet (3.7 meters) in 1993, another year Louisiana's coast escaped harm. When Katrina formed as a tropical storm in the Bahamas on Aug. 24, 2005, the river stage in New Orleans was just 2.44 feet (0.74 meters) above sea level. It rose to 3.6 feet (1.1 meters) the day before Katrina devastated the city in 2005.

Katrina knocked out an automatic station that would have measured peak surge at the river's mouth, but an analysis by the Federal Emergency Management Agency indicates the surge reached nearly 28 feet at Pass Christian, Mississippi. Surge pushed the Mississippi River up to 11.6 feet (3.5 meters) at New Orleans — not a threatening height with the river low. But surge from the brackish lakes to the city's north and east reached 19 feet (5.8 meters), overtopping or breaching those levees and flooding 80% of the city with water as much as

20 feet (6.1 meters) deep in places. "I would assume major problems on the river if we had a high river with a Katrina event," said Jeffrey Graschel, with the National Weather Service's Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center.

The vast majority of the \$14.6 billion spent on flood controls as a result of Katrina went not to the river levees, but to shore up and block areas that failed. The possibility of a punishing storm surge meeting a swollen Mississippi in New Orleans is a different threat, one that could become more common as the planet warms, spawning longer-lasting floods and earlier hurricanes.

Barry was the first hurricane to menace when the river was as high as it was in July, Boyett said. In 1929, the year construction started on the spillway that caps the river's height at New Orleans, the Mississippi topped at 19.99 feet (6.1 meters) in June, Boyett said. But that year saw only five Atlantic tropical systems, with two hurricanes in the Gulf, National Hurricane Center data show — and both stayed away from Louisiana. NOAA forecasters now expect 10 to 17 named storms this year, including five to nine hurricanes. Opening spillways upriver from New Orleans can't fix this, because they were designed to keep water flowing at a manageable rate, not to quickly drop river levels, which could cause mudslides when levees don't dry out as fast as the water falls, Boyett said. The changing climate means this problem could become an annual threat. "Flooding is never a one-time thing. We're just waiting for the next one," said Pinter, an associate director of the University of California Davis Center for Watershed Sciences. "Given model predictions for climate change and rising sea levels and suggestions that hurricanes are maybe getting more intense, it's something we have to keep an eye on." □



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# The real Brian Banks speaks out on prison injustice, reform

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — When Brian Banks' home was a prison cell due to a crime he didn't commit, he never imagined his life would be the subject of a film. He was only concerned with clearing his name and regaining his freedom. Now, seven years after he was exonerated on a rape allegation, Banks hopes the film detailing his fight for justice helps move along reform.

"What I want people to take away from this is that what I went through was unacceptable, what many others have gone through is unacceptable," he told The Associated Press.

"For those that are currently behind bars, or no longer behind bars but have experienced wrongful conviction, I want you to know that you're not alone, that you haven't been forgotten, that there are people working on trying to fix

these wrongs, and as a person who's been through it, I'm one of them," he added.

Banks, 34, was a standout high school football player who many believed had a shot at the NFL, until his dreams were derailed when he was falsely accused of rape by a high school classmate in 2002. He was only 16, took a plea and served nearly six years in prison. He spent an additional five years on parole with a mandatory ankle bracelet as a registered sex offender, until he was exonerated in 2012 after his accuser recanted and with help from the California Innocence Project.

The film, "Brian Banks," recently opened and stars Aldis Hodge as Banks and Greg Kinnear as Justin Brooks, co-founder of the innocence group. Sherri Shepherd plays Banks' mother, Leomia Delaney. Brooks hopes the film will motivate viewers to join the criminal justice reform fight.



In this Thursday, May 24, 2012 file photo, Brian Banks weeps after his rape conviction was dismissed in court in Long Beach, Calif. Associated Press

Once Banks was cleared and Hollywood came calling, the two said their goal was to make a "justice movie," not a football movie.

"I want people to walk out of this movie theater and remember this movie next time they're sitting in jury duty, that maybe this person in front of them is innocent," Brooks told the AP. "And next time they go into a voting booth to not vote

out of fear because politicians have been making people afraid for a long time. The only way reforms can happen is if people are thinking straight."

Since his release, Banks has worked as a life coach and public speaker. His book, "What Set Me Free," came out in July.

The film follows the release of "When They See Us," the Emmy-nominated Netflix

limited series that tells the stories of the Central Park Five, a group of New York teens who spent six to 13 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of raping a female jogger in 1989.

"I know those guys — those are friends of the Innocence Project network. We get together on a yearly basis and share our stories," Banks said.

He had a hard time sitting through parts of the series that was created, co-written and directed by Ava DuVernay.

"I have only watched half of that series and that's because the second half was just a little difficult for me to watch because I can relate," Banks said. "I know what it feels like. I know what they went through. And so once the court proceedings of that series kind of came to a conclusion and they were found guilty and the whole prison experience began, I had to tune out, man." □

# Latino actors, writers pen 'letter of solidarity' amid fears

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)**

— Actresses America Ferrera and Eva Longoria are leading a group of more than 150 writers, artists and leaders who have written a public "letter of solidarity" to U.S. Latinos after the mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, and an immigration raid in Mississippi.

The letter, published Friday in The New York Times and in a handful of Spanish-language newspapers, says the signers stand with U.S. Latinos who may feel "terrified, heartbroken and defeated by the barrage of attacks," citing the shooting in El Paso, which targeted Hispanics, and another shooting in Gilroy, California. The two attacks killed nearly two dozen Latinos.

A huge immigration raid of Mississippi poultry plants this month that rounded up 680 mostly Latino workers, leaving behind crying children searching for their detained parents, also has

unnerved some Hispanics. "We have been smeared by political rhetoric and murdered in violent hate crimes. We have been separated from our families and have watched our children caged," the letter said. "But, we will not be broken. We will not be silenced."

The letter says such "indignities and cruelty" won't diminish the contributions Latinos have made to the U.S., and it urged Hispanics to keep standing up to bigotry.

Signing the letter were some of the most important Latino figures in entertainment, art, literature and activism, including novelist Sandra Cisneros, Academy Award-winning actress Rita Moreno, civil rights leader Dolores Huerta, singer-actress Jennifer Lopez and Tony Award-winning composer Lin-Manuel Miranda. The violence has some Hispanics looking over their shoulders, avoiding speaking Spanish in public, and

seeking out escape routes amid fears they could be next.

The shootings and the raid come against a backdrop of racist episodes that include then-candidate Donald Trump referring to Mexican immigrants as "rapists"; Trump, as president, referring to migrants coming to the U.S. as "an invasion"; and viral videos of white people chastising Hispanics for speaking Spanish in public.

Longoria told The Associated Press that she and Ferrera got the idea for the letter after they talked and found out they were both depressed and sad after the El Paso shooting.

"Once we started talking to other people, we found out others were feeling the same way," Longoria said. "Instead of us all suffering alone we wanted to unite and tell our community that is going through all of this ... we are with you and we will fight for you."

Longoria said the letter is



In this July 25, 2016, file photo, actress Eva Longoria speaks during the first day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

not meant to take political sides but to reach out to Americans regardless of party to say Latinos are hurting.

Ferrera told The AP that Latinos have been subjected to a number of racist attacks recently, but the El Paso shooting and the Mississippi raid were "just soul-crushing" for some.

"We wanted to do something to let people know we aren't going to lie down

and take it," America said. "We are going to stand up and fight." Mónica Ramírez, a civil rights lawyer and activist who helped organize the letter, called it a "letter of love" and hopes it changes some hearts.

"We also wanted to make sure that people understand that our community is powerful and we have many allies," Ramírez said. "We don't want other groups to be targeted." □





In this Wednesday, July 24, 2019, file photo, Robin Thede, the creator, star and executive producer of the HBO comedy series "A Black Lady Sketch Show," poses for a portrait during the 2019 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour at the Beverly Hilton, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

## Robin Thede looks to build legacy in HBO sketch comedy show

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Robin Thede knew plenty of talented African-American female comedians, but only a few were getting hired on popular TV comedy shows such as "Saturday Night Live" and "Mad TV." So, Thede decided to create her own show featuring some of the industry's funniest black women. The comic-writer-producer-actress is breaking new ground with her HBO comedy series "A Black Lady Sketch Show," which airs Friday nights.

The six-episode series offers sketches written and performed by an all-black female cast. It stars Thede, Ashley Nicole Black, Gabrielle Dennis and Quinta Brunson. Guests, mostly black women, include Angela Bassett, Kelly Rowland, Marsai Martin, Lena Waithe, Patti LaBelle and Natasha Rothwell.

"It's a culmination of a life-long passion for sketch," said Thede, a co-producer of the series with Issa Rae, who also makes an appearance. "When black women do get on sketch shows, we really stand out. But there are only a handful of black women who have ever been on sketch shows. Why not stack the deck and put them on all at once on one show?"

Between each sketch, the four ladies huddle up inside an apartment after a mysterious apocalypse wiped out the rest of civilization. The cast plays more than 100 different characters in sketches exploring a variety of comedic story lines. There's an invisible plus-size black woman spy, for example, and sketches about ashy skin and unexpected marriage proposals. That variety is the point, Thede said.

"I wanted to do a show that was challenging the views of black women in comedy for a lot of people and showing we can do anything. We can play men, women, aliens or whatever we want. It's all sorts of genres, styles and charac-

ters in this show," she said. "We've never seen black women like this before. ... In a way, this show is a love letter to black women."

Thede became the first female, African-American head writer of a late-night talk show in 2015, with "The Nightly Show with Larry Whitmore." She created and executive produced BET's late-night comedy series "The Rundown with Robin Thede," which was canceled after one season.

Shortly after that, Thede pitched the idea for "A Black Lady Sketch Show" to HBO. She said the network bought it "within minutes" after a dinner with her, Rae and executives.

"I never shot a pilot," she said, adding that the network's quick approval showed "how confident they were in me, the idea, and the partnership between me and Issa. It's one of those ideas that when people hear it, they go, 'Yeah, of course. Why not?' It feels like something we've been missing."

Thede said Black, Dennis and Brunson were "no-brainer" choices. They didn't audition for the roles, she said, because she already knew "what they brought to the table."

Dennis was a stand-up comedian early in her career before she starred in Netflix's Marvel's "Luke Cage" and as Whitney Houston in the BET miniseries "The Bobby Brown Story."

"No casting director would've brought me into this based on my body of work," she said. "I would not have come into someone's head for sketch. But you know luckily, how God places steps and pieces things of that nature along the way, this happened

because Robin knew me from my days of sketch and stand-up. It's a full-circle moment. This gave me chills."

Black is an actress-comedian who won an Emmy Award in 2017 for her writing on TBS' "Full Frontal with Samantha Bee." Brunson was a social-media sensation before she starred on her own Facebook Watch series, "Quinta vs. Everything," and had recurring roles on ABC's "Single Parents" and CW's "iZombie."

Writing for "A Black Lady Sketch Show," Black said, gives her freedom to express herself like never before. "As an actor, you are beholden to a lot of other people's wishes. You get a script, there's a director, and they have an idea of how they're going to use your body to tell a story," she said. "For me, it just was never good because I'm a plus-size black woman. No one really wanted to tell the story where I'm really happy. It was always like, your life is terrible. You're sad. There's a cake hiding in your fridge. That's every script I read. The first time I did sketch, I had a chance to write it. For this show, I get to be in charge of the entire utterance of how I'm being represented."

Thede was gratified by rave reviews after the first episode.

"I do everything to leave a legacy," she said. "I feel like this is going to be a big part of all our legacies. That will remain true whether one person watches or 100 million. We hope for the latter. But I think this is so revolutionary, because now it exists. It's cinematic. It's beautiful. We feel proud of it. My work is about what we leave behind, not what we take." □

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SAT 1:15 | 3:20 | 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:25 | 11:30

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PH MON-THU 7:30 | 10:05

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FRI 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:10

SAT 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50 | 11:10

SUN 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:30 | 8:50

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PBP MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:25 | 9:20

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# With glut of festivals, hard to match Woodstock magic

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Fifty years after Woodstock, the mystical and messy event that gave birth to a myriad of musical festivals, the entertainment industry is diluted with festivals and events like it — some genre specific, some extremely diverse and others offering experiences in addition to music, ranging from food to art, in order to appeal to wider audiences.

And while there have been historic moments at music festivals since Woodstock — from Prince's 8-minute cover of Radiohead's "Creep" at Coachella in 2008 to Radiohead's groundbreaking Bonnaroo set in 2006 to Beyoncé's black pride summit at last year's Coachella — could what happened at Woodstock be replicated? "It's hard to compare any modern-day festival to what occurred at the original Woodstock. It was a cultural event that was a watershed happening that captured the imagination of an entire generation," said Ray Waddell, president of media and conferences at Oak View Group, which owns concert trade publication Pollstar. "It was an amazing summer, an incredible year. It all kind of came together at Woodstock in 1969. To try to replicate that, they've never fully been able to."

Since the original Woodstock, which took place August 15-18 in 1969 in

Bethel, New York, and featured Jimi Hendrix, Grateful Dead and more, festivals have grown tremendously and, when done properly, are money makers. The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, which takes place every April in Southern California, is the most successful festival in the United States, selling out quickly, and even before its lineup is announced. Other festivals have maintained a strong presence, too, from the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Tennessee to Lollapalooza in Chicago.

Today, about every major city has at least one festival — some gone after a year, others persisting through. But it's made the festival scene overcrowded, and now producers are working tirelessly to make their festivals different than the next one. That has become increasingly difficult over the years, as many acts use festivals almost as a touring stop, headlining multiple festivals within a matter of weeks.

"What makes the festival stand out is one, the experience, and two, exclusivity and uniqueness of the lineup. They can ebb and flow with the lineup. You look at Bonnaroo, which fell off for a couple of years and then came back this year with the perfect mix of a lineup that captured the attention of the people who are willing to camp out three



In this Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019 file photo, a man who calls himself "Run-A-Way Bill" stands in front of a Volkswagen bus while waiting for the gates to open at a Woodstock 50th anniversary event in Bethel, N.Y.

Associated Press

or four days," Waddell said. "The problem is there's not enough headlining acts out there."

He continued: "One thing that Coachella has going for it is it's first in April. When they had Outkast that year, LCD Soundsystem that year, Guns N' Roses — they were the first and three or four or more booked those same acts but you didn't know that."

Boutique festivals that cater to smaller audiences as well as artist-curated festivals have been a success in recent years. Jay-Z launched Made in America in Philadelphia seven years

ago, and other artists have done the same, including Drake, Pharrell, Travis Scott, Mumford & Sons, J. Cole, Bon Iver, Grace Potter & the Nocturnals, the National and others.

"There are a lot of reasons festivals don't work right now, oversaturation being one of them," said Jordan Kurland, co-founder of Noise Pop Festival in the San Francisco Bay Area and co-founder of Brilliant Corners, the artist management company home to Death Cab for Cutie and She & Him.

Kurland said some festival organizers need to think be-

yond performances. "What is the festival doing differently? Why does it exist? It's not enough to just fence a field and say we're going to have 30,000 people here because we have major acts," he said. "Launching a good, sustainable festival is doing something unique. It doesn't just stand on talent at this point. It's festival experience. It's festival location."

Alec Jhangiani, the co-founder and producer of Fortress Festival in Fort Worth, Texas, said he believes festivals have lost their "sheen a little bit as it becomes more prevalent." □

## FCC fines networks for wrongly using emergency alert system

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jimmy Kimmel has learned an expensive lesson: don't mess with the government's emergency alert system. Kimmel's network, ABC, was one of four media organizations fined by the Federal Communications Commission this week for improper use of the emergency signal that is sent over television, radio and mobile phones to warn people of danger like floods and fires. The

\$395,000 fine to ABC was by far the stiffest.

FCC rules prohibit the use of the signal for any purpose other than an actual emergency. The idea is to prevent confusion, the agency said Friday.

Kimmel used the signal three times as part of a skit on his show on Oct. 3, 2018. ABC has signed a consent decree agreeing to pay the fine and promising not to improperly use the emergency tones again,

the FCC announced Thursday.

AMC network agreed to pay a \$104,000 fine for improper use of the signal in an episode of its most popular show, "The Walking Dead," in February, the FCC said.

Discovery's Animal Planet was fined \$68,000 when an actual emergency signal sent to a mobile phone was picked up by cameras during a filming session for its show, "Lone Star Law."



In this Tuesday, May 14, 2019, file photo, Jimmy Kimmel attends the Walt Disney Television 2019 upfront at Tavern on The Green in New York.

Associated Press

The show was filming Texas game wardens making rescues in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

Los Angeles radio stations KDAY and KDEY were fined \$67,000 for using the signal in show promotions. □



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